

POLL: How the World Sees Canada **BRE-X:** Sifting Through the Rubble

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

APRIL 14, 1993

The New Outlaws

BACKLASH:

Anti-tobacco laws are making smoking *cool* again





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Maclean's CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE This Week

APRIL 14 1997 VOL. 31/0 NO. 16

Departments

EDITORIAL 2

LETTERS 4

OPENING NOTES/PAGES 103

SPECIAL REPORT 12

CANADA 18

Three provinces are trying to improve child protection. The Quebec regime of Quebec's provinces despite reform drawbacks, a new deal could resolve the Pearson airport case

WORLD 26

As clothes mount in the West Bank, Palestinians fear that the peace process will stall as long as the rise of a radical politician highlights Australia's identity crisis

PEOPLE 32

BUSINESS 34
Popping interest rates create a stark market meltdown and panic potential: home buyers

DEVER 44

SPORTS 52

CRICKET 54

A backlist comes over who should pay the cost of teaching immigrants to speak English

HEALTH MONITOR 56

ART 58

Folk art is booming in Nova Scotia, where a leading figure, the late Wood Laver, is currently the subject of a major retrospective

PILES 66

A Canadian film about a motorcycle marriage is too brutal and compelling

BOOKS 72

An author explores the wonders of science that closed the sheep dog

Columns

BARBARA AMEL 9

DEVERE MOHRMOR 40

PETER C. NEWMAN 42

ALLAN FETTERBERG 64

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Cover

44

The new outlaws

As the law closes in on smokers, many are fighting back—lighting up in defiance of a new prohibition in Toronto's bars, or sucking the brand towards politicians elsewhere. Are zealous legislators giving smoking a new, rebellious cachet?



Features

12

Canada and the world

A new poll finds that many Canadians really do see Canadians as the globe's boy scouts—for tolerant and responsible. Canadians, meanwhile, are satisfied with their lives and have national institutions. But are they truly?



52

Ready to roar in Augusta

Only 21 and still just a rookie in professional golf, American phenom Tiger Woods is the favorite to win this week's Masters



34

Bre-X: sifting the rubble

As the X prodigal Mike de Guzman—who plunged to his death from a helicopter—was buried, controversy raged over the extent of his alleged plot of gold discovery



From The Editor

In search of an issue



It was a week of brawls in federal Liberal circles as the national governing party geared up for its early summer election. But behind the scenes, a certain degree of Nervous Nelliness was palpable. And little wonder: The crucial fight that party now wants for in the polls is the trend—and for Jean Chrétien, the trend is down. That at least was the message in the latest survey from the Angus Reid Group: The Liberals have slipped to 41 per cent from 46 since February—and down 11 points

since July. Meanwhile, the Tories (at 38 per cent), Reform (27) and the NDP (13) showed forward movement, most notably Reform with a jump of five points. More significant, given the looming battle of the reposes, the Liberals have fallen to second after Reform in British Columbia and Alberta. In Quebec, the Liberals now trail the Bloc Québécois by eight points. Most telling of all, 38 per cent of the sample of 1,500 Canadians said it was unacceptable for Chrétien to call an election with so much time remaining in his mandate.

And there's the rub: Here is a Prime Minister in search of an issue. He wants an election simply because he thinks he can win. Indeed, in the Reid poll, the Liberals were at the same level of support that gave them their majority in 1993. But then, there is that downward trend. Chrétien's dilemma is simple: He can afford NOT to call an election now. He has gone too far down the road.

How did the Liberals, heading for a slender minority only a month ago, arrive on the map of minority government, or worse? Clearly, the fixer over the promise to abolish the GST was the star of the problem. First, Chrétien denied that he promised to abolish



Chrétien, the Aerogold Airlines was palatable

the tax, then apologized for his deceit. Defence Minister Doug Young, the wailing usage of a bull in a china shop, has not helped. Throwing out insults left and right, he bravely shut down the inquiry into the Somalia scandal—just as it was about to examine a possible cover-up in government meals related to the death of a seaman at the hands of Canadian troops. The government also attempted to stage-act the Kerner commission on tainted blood, coming out on the dark side. And then last week, there was the whiffiness of using taxpayers' money to finance a punitive deal to settle the Pearson airport impasse—seemingly with election timing meat in mind (page 22).

To be sure, the latest poll is not all doom and gloom for the Liberals. They enjoy a wide lead in Ontario and are ahead in what looms as a solid three-way fight in Atlantic Canada. Almost half the poll respondents said the Griffs deserve to be re-elected, and among the 48 per cent disagreeing, there was no consensus on what other party could do a better job. The Liberals also were the party of choice when the pollsters asked voters who is best able to solve the unemployment problem. Still, Chrétien will have to move with caution. Being the victim that he is, he certainly remembers what happened when another liberal prime minister with a majority went to the polls without an issue. It was 1972 and Pierre Trudeau's slogan was "The land is strong." It is a scenario that can make a successor weak in the loaves.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

ON THE WEB

Buzz-X, the banks, politics, bees, the GST, smoking, apes. They are just some of the topics currently being debated in two on-line Macken's forums. They are available to computer users either on the World Wide Web (www.comcast.ca/macken) or on CompuServe, the commercial on-line



Newsroom chat forum

service. In addition to chat in both places, every Sunday night the new edition is available—a selection of articles on the Web, the full text on CompuServe. Overseeing the operation is Brad Gosselin, Director of New Media. The CompuServe site includes also contain background reports on issues and access to back issues. The Internet version, known as the webforum or Macken's, offers a selection of "responses" from previous issues and a special monthly feature

called Web Notes, written by Rob Scott, Assistant Editor. New Media, that explores Internet trends. In partnership with the Yahoo! Canada search engine, Macken's also points surfers to Internet sites related to topics in Macken's. The electronic effort, supported by contributors Perry Tam and Andrea Enard, "aims to make the contents of Macken's available to a wider audience," says Gosselin. "We especially value the forums for the opportunity to hear the views of our readers or to 'talk' to them directly on our e-mail links. Our visitors currently have not been shy about giving life to their opinions in cyberpace."



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Drugs and the RCMP

Your cover story puts the RCMP in a position of ineptitude previously matched only by the Keystone Kops ("Murder mysteries," March 20). It is appreciated that the combination of ethnic, legal and gender consciousness decreed by their own respect political masters may be largely responsible. It is further agreed that the legal system in Canada places sometimes insurmountable obstacles in the path of any group trying to interfere with the "rights" of criminal organizations. I, for one, do not believe that any member of the RCMP is the instigator. Let's give them a free hand to identify the real culprits, without suggestions from justice department officials.

J. V. Lopez
Victoria BC

24). The idea that a dangerous convicted murderer may one day walk free at the very real risk of reoffending is objectionable, at best ludicrous and frightening, at worst. The need has been voiced: the punishment must fit the crime, not only for the sake of justice but for the sake of deterrence as well.

Melinda Fawcett
Calgary AB

Footing the bills

Perhaps your letter writer is correct when he writes about how reprehensible is the expectation that law enforcement should have to pay for the refinements of all of our baby boomers ("Pension universality," March 20). I suggest that, in return for being exempted from this responsibility, the "under-

30s workforce" turn in their car keys, cancel their telephone service, and take out extensive mortgages to repay the true costs of their education. People like the letter writer, after all, are driving us up roads, using electronic communications systems built with my tax dollars, and have received a highly subsidized education on my back.

Peter Kujawa
Melfort, Sask

Minority government

Surely Peter C. Newman is speaking when he writes that a Liberal minority would make for great government. ("Upsetting

Clinton's appeal," The Nation's Business, March 21). He could not have been so contemplative any minority government resulting the major concern and constitutional problems that confront us. A weakened central government would have little or no leverage with the provinces, particularly with Quebec. Minority governments may have their place in history, but this is not the time for one.

Arthur Hessey
Neyens, Ont.

New Cold War

It was with a sense of dismay that I read the report on the despicable act of the Jordanian soldier's shooting of several Israeli schoolgirls ("Slaine and singer," World,



Drain's age and Canada's trouble hockey heroes are no little-known

The wrong star

Increasingly thoughtful coverage by the news media is one symptom of the rising profile of women's hockey, and Maclean's report on Canada's national women's team is a case in point ("The home team," Women in Sports, April 7). That a captain named Nancy Dwyer, one of the most exciting players in women's hockey, as well as Canada's Dault, it has had that a story that helped build awareness of the women's game also illustrated that Canada's female hockey heroes remain too little-known.

Jane MacKinnon,
Manager of communications,
Canadian Hockey,
Calgary

March 24). The line that officials use: "The initial findings of a Jordanian military investigation suggested that the gunman was not a Palestinian, not a fanatic and not a devout Muslim," any of which might have explained his conduct." To imply that the targeted mass murder could be understood (it had been a "devout Muslim" on the other end of the trigger into further perpetration, miscomprehension, misinterpretation and retaliation, with the result that your less to ferreted readers hold on to the idea that our societies are naturally against each other. "Devout Muslims" don't kill schoolgirls. This is the misinterpretation of the Cold War mentality pitting different civilizations: Islamic world versus the Judeo-Christian world) against each other.

Mark Zivnus
Ottawa BC

'Workplace woes'

Charles Gordon's column about people feeling desperate to do something they can be proud of—and become less immediately dependent upon a changing workplace—must spot on ("Piano lessons, hard watching and go!" Another View, March 23). He could all the workplace woes of the '30s. I felt like he was describing my life working 9 to 5 (instead of 9 to 9:30) I used to play the piano, dancing, telling stories and watching for the occasional hard to corner book.

Elmer Hinesman,
Corner Brook, Nfld BC

THE MAIL

'On the line'

I followed with disgust and revulsion the treatment accorded Maj. Barry Armstrong throughout the Somalia inquiry ("Accusations of murder," Canada Notes, March 24). In doing hardy to the military and medical professions, this courageous officer is attacked, pilloried and vilified before the whole country instead of backing down from what must have been intense pressure from his superiors, he steadfastly stood his ground, thereby putting his military career on the line. The defence department should be openly recognizing and praising his integrity, not breaking him in an advisory.

R. E. Meadows,
Corns, BC

Ethnic harmony

Maclean's missed the most vital part of Toronto in its coverage of our wonderful city ("The fight for Toronto," Centre, March 17). Judging from the photos that you chose to print, it would seem that Wagon is also a bastion of Caucasians, since for ethnic exceptions. It might be interesting for your readers to know that Toronto

is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. It has achieved a harmony that is sadly missing in some other supposedly world-class cities.

Brian McNulty
Toronto BC

'20/20 hindsight'

In his article about the Eskos, Peter C. Newman disapproved of Lady Erskine's prime of Mussolini in 1937 ("From dynasty myth to mere mortals," The Nation's Business, March 10). One must remember that Mussolini's policies had socialist roots, he was very popular at that time, made peace with the Vatican and was on the right track until the 1930s when he aligned himself opportunistically with Hitler. *His hindsight is always 20/20.*

Gus Lewis
Regina

No worries

I grant you that the second generation Chrysler Concord is garish, and as I thought another recent Chrysler design was the first time I saw it ("Driven by de-

sign," Business, March 19). I can assure you, however, that as the owner of that car—a Neon—in beauty in skin deep and my frustrations with it leave no bounds. I was taken with its looks, innovative design and extraordinary affordability. After all, if a vehicle has been conceived by sophisticated computer-aided design, what could possibly go wrong, despite the fact that it has been utilised in the real world? Well I found out, and I continue to find out, on both counts. I don't think the Japanese have much to worry about.

Roger Clarke,
Toronto BC

Scientific advances

It is sad to see the way people react when faced with a mind-blowing development such as the cloning advance made with the sheep Dolly ("The Dolly drama," Special Report, March 10). I am wondering if James Salk's and Alexander Fleming's discoveries were received with the same untamed hysteria. This is a truly advantageous breakthrough and will share much to be so it is flawed; although regulation is necessary, you cannot stop science, but you can hope it goes in the right direction.

Bob Gault,
Winnipeg BC



Struggled cocaine, risky business at police work

Fainthearted law

There comes a time when a clear, definitive line must be drawn. I write, of course, of the recently controversial "look-alike clause" for violent criminal offenders ("A killer's bid to go free," Canada, March

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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CANADA AND THE WORLD

A new poll finds that Canadians are envied—and happy

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

Caring, sharing, patient, mostly tolerant and a bit boring. Throughout Canada's 130-year history, Canadians have often been self-congratulatory about their perceived virtues—and worried about why the rest of the world does not seem to share their fascination with themselves. No matter what the era, whenever Canadians consider their character—or the rest of the world evaluates us—two themes invariably emerge: Canadians appear over why their successes are not more appreciated, while foreigners puzzle over why a people so nice should be so ignored. As early as 1898, a Canadian book editor named J. Custell Hopkins declared that Canada "requires only to be known to be great." But over the years, others have found Canadian virtues to sometimes be more patently than pleasant. Rich travel writer Jan Manley last year wrote in 1989 that the "energy of Canadian nice-ness, like the force of Canadian greed, can be disconcerting." And author Margaret Robbley, with his usual wit and touch, once wrote that Canadians "are the English-speaking world's biggest squares."

What a relief, then, to find—in the Canadian tradition of wanting to please everyone—new evidence to suggest that for the most part, Canadians' vision of themselves is not that far removed from the way the rest of the world sees us. Canadians, it seems, really are among the world's top Scoots—with a country that is envied and enjoys a fair and honest legal system, well-developed and rights, a strong set of social values, and a sense of responsibility towards others, less privileged nations. As a result, many people all over the world would be both surprised and charmed if such an admirable nation were to be divided by the secession of Quebec. Canadians, as a people, are universally seen as friendly, polite, well educated and even, sometimes, interesting. And in spite of those size-grumbling, they are, overall, happy, ranking second only to Australians in expressing satisfaction with their lives.

Those are among the key findings of a poll conducted among 5,700 adults in 28 countries by the Angus Reid Group and made available to Maclean's in advance of the April 7 release in Ottawa. The poll aimed to measure attitudes of respondents across the

HAPPINESS INDEX

The combined percentage of those who strongly or moderately agree with the statement "I'm very happy with my life as it is right now."

Australia	91
CANADA	87
Germany	86
United States	85
France	81
United Kingdom	78
Canada	76
Israel	72
Italy	70
South Korea	70
Japan	66
Spain	66
Thailand	46
Sweden	38
Ukraine	31

Source: Angus Reid Group, 1997

world, including Canadians, in various ways in their respective countries, and opinions about Canada. The countries chose a representative representative of the world, ranging from Egypt and Israel in the Middle East to Russia, South Africa, most major Western European countries, and several countries in Latin America, as well as the United States and Canada.

Overall, respondents in most of the countries, including Canada, appear pleased about such topics as the future, the growing problem of homelessness, declining opportunities for the young and the increasing inability of governments to effect positive changes. But in some of the answers, otherwise staid and unimpressive Canadians appear as become of optimism. The most dramatic example: 67 per cent of Canadians said they agreed with the assertion "I'm very happy with my life as it is right now."

In a related survey of respondents in 14 nations, Canadians also exhibited a sense of trust in their national institutions. They also said they were prepared to believe in the integrity of their police and justice system (as almost all others) only 26 per cent of Canadians agreed with the suggestion that "police corruption is a serious

Synthetic candy
attempts to
mimic high
fructose
corn syrup

problem," compared with 60 per cent of Americans, 78 per cent of Australians and, at the high end of the scale, 88 per cent of Russians and Ukrainians. Similarly, despite growing public debate over the quality of Canada's health care system, 91 per cent of Canadian respondents describe it as "one of the best."

In fact, Canadians, despite a penchant for unbridled self-assertion, appear far more proud and confident of their attitudes than do respondents in almost all of the other countries about themselves. "We see here how really unique Canada is, and how valued it is around the world in so many ways," says pollster and company chairman Angus Reid. "The fact is, we are a lot more comfortable than we tend to give ourselves credit for."

As for Canada's role, the polls that Canadians feel towards Canada appears largely in keeping with the views of others around the world. When asked to rate the top 10 nations in the world for quality of life, Canada was named by at least three quarters of respondents in all of the other countries. Similarly, when asked to name what country they admire most, Canada ranked within the top 10. That sentiment was most strongly expressed in Japan, Germany, the United States, Ukraine and Australia. Canadians were more modest than all of those countries on this issue, with 87 per cent citing their own homeland.

But modesty was not always the prevailing sentiment. On several important issues, Canadian respondents held a higher opinion of their own worth than almost anyone else. Despite a series of foreign aid cuts in recent years, 94 per cent of Canadian respondents felt their country was "very generous" toward considerably poorer countries. But in 11 of the remaining 19 countries, more than one in five respondents disagreed with that assessment. Similarly, Canadians were more inclined to see their country's role in world peacekeeping efforts than respondents in most other countries. Eighty-three per cent of Canadians said Canada plays a "some what" or "very" substantial role in peacekeeping—but that opinion was considerably lower among traditional allies: 50 per cent in the United States and France, 54 per cent in the United Kingdom and 58 per cent in Australia.

Perhaps more to the point, 58 per cent of respondents in Egypt and 52 per cent in Israel said they disagreed with that assessment—in spite of the fact that Canadians have served in United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Middle East for close to three decades. One reason, said Reid, is the sense of polarization that exists in such countries. "Each side feels itself to be in the right and that makes them sometimes resistant to any intermediaries," he notes. "The result is that you sometimes make more enemies than friends."

When it comes to Canada's chances of remaining unified, outsiders often appear more pessimistic and optimistic than do Canadians themselves. The issue, for example, of whether Quebec's secession constitutes a distinct society in North America is far less

THE QUEBEC QUESTION

How would you personally react if you read in a newspaper or saw on television that Canada had split up into two countries with Quebec becoming independent? Would you be happy, or sad, or would you know no opinion?

	SAD	HAPPY	NO OPINION
CANADA	67	12	22
Australia	34	28	38
Italy	34	12	52
United Kingdom	33	9	59
United States	31	8	61
Belgium	30	15	55
Chile	18	8	63
India	26	5	67
Marion	28	12	62
Germany	25	19	57
Japan	24	4	74
Israel	23	7	70
France	23	26	49
Egypt	22	3	75
South Korea	21	10	70
Ukraine	20	5	78
South Africa	20	8	72
Russia	17	2	81
Israel	17	7	76
China/Hong Kong	18	3	81

Sampling for the Angus Reid "Canada and the World" poll was conducted between February and March. The most extensive polling was done in Canada and the United States, where more than 2,000 people were questioned, resulting in a margin of error within 3.1 percentage points. In the other countries, an estimated 200 people were polled, resulting in a margin of error within seven percentage points.

Most celebrities remain all but unknown abroad

controversial abroad than at home. Within Canada, 66 per cent agreed with that assertion, while 30 per cent did not. By contrast, a greater percentage of respondents agreed with that statement in eight other countries, including 66 per cent in the United States and 85 per cent in both France and the United Kingdom. The possibility that Quebec may eventually become sovereign was usually greeted in other countries with either indifference or some dismay. The only country where more people said they would be happy rather than sad if Quebec left Canada was France, by a margin of 28 per cent to 23.

Ironically, says Reid, the awareness of Canada's utility problems seems to have only enhanced the country's reputation for bawiness and tolerance. On the issue of personal freedom, for example, a majority of respondents in all but one of the other countries—Russia—felt that Canadians were better off than the natives. That was true even in the United States, where



Sally Field, Anderson Lee, the TV star is Canada's best-known export

82 per cent of respondents thought Canadians enjoyed more freedom than Americans. One reason for that sentiment, says Reid, "appears to be the fact that Canadians seem able to debate the future of their country via cable and national news without bloodshed. That isn't the case everywhere."

On the other hand, there are some other areas where Canada fares far less well than Canadians might like. One of the few slams internationally comes from the perceived underachievement of women

and people among those who think Canada treats native people badly were 49 per cent of respondents in Japan, 42 per cent in France (and Canada), 40 per cent in Germany and 39 per cent in Egypt. Similarly, despite the efforts of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and business leaders to promote Canada as a home of high-tech and sophisticated products, Canadians retain their traditional image as bowers of wood and drawers of water. The notion that "Canada is a world leader in technological advancements" elicited strong agreement in only a handful of countries, including France (66 per cent), Mexico (62 per cent) and Canada itself (75 per cent).

By contrast, more respondents disagreed with that assertion in India (40 per cent), Japan (46 per cent), Hong Kong and China (55 per cent), and the United Kingdom (57 per cent). With a federal election likely to be held either this spring or fall, there are some clear messages for politicians of all stripes. One is that Canadians still show signs of ambivalence on the topic of free trade. Forty-nine per cent say "no assisted trade" is the best route to prosperity—but fully 45 per cent say they still favor protectionism. (In the United States, 35 per cent cite protectionism, while only 11 per cent favor expanded trade.) And few outside the United States wish to see more clear messages for politicians of all stripes. One is that Canadians still show signs of ambivalence on the topic of free trade. Forty-nine per cent say "no assisted trade" is the best route to prosperity—but fully 45 per cent say they still favor protectionism. (In the United States, 35 per cent cite protectionism, while only 11 per cent favor expanded trade.) And few outside the United States wish to see more clear messages for politicians of all stripes. One is that Canadians still show signs of ambivalence on the topic of free trade. Forty-nine per cent say "no assisted trade" is the best route to prosperity—but fully 45 per cent say they still favor protectionism. (In the United States, 35 per cent cite protectionism, while only 11 per cent favor expanded trade.) And few outside the United States wish to see more clear messages for politicians of all stripes.

And the evidence suggests that many people think Canada

ARE CANADIANS SEXY?

Compared with people in other countries, would you say Canadians are:

(% who said yes)	POLITE	SEXY
Canada	92	81
United States	81	66
Mexico	62	51
Brazil	60	38
Chile	66	38
United Kingdom	50	37
France	97	53
Belgium	84	76
Germany	95	76
Italy	83	30
Ukraine	85	67
Russia	71	62
Israel	94	48
Egypt	65	26
South Africa	76	37
Japan	79	75
South Korea	77	72
China/Hong Kong	80	27
India	89	47
Australia	88	40

whether Canadians sexy, responded with a Yes. Nice, Canadians may be—but in at least some parts of the world, the description "sexy" refers to something more than just the climate. □

36. Just prior to our poll results in the *The Week* section of the *Nation's Press* (see page 100 on page 100).

CANADA'S STARS THROUGH FOREIGN EYES

Have you ever heard of:	Colin Hanks	Ryan Adams	Byron Adams	Female Anderson Lee	Wayne Gretzky	Jacques Villeneuve	Dominic Raab	Michael Tremblay	Margaret Atwood	Conrad Black
(% who said yes)	93	90	88	74	86	79	78	72	64	67
Canada	93	90	88	74	86	79	78	72	64	67
United States	64	76	67	79	60	10	25	20	40	16
Mexico	12	34	58	55	6	10	15	12	19	15
Brazil	10	24	58	58	6	76	16	15	22	12
Chile	13	36	46	73	4	21	23	15	17	15
United Kingdom	72	48	78	94	20	86	35	6	37	37
France	94	21	72	95	6	89	40	30	18	15
Belgium	83	18	79	92	6	71	27	16	17	10
Germany	27	24	81	89	24	69	39	10	45	14
Italy	26	16	97	68	5	73	20	13	17	15
Ukraine	16	21	95	47	36	21	9	15	19	18
Russia	9	29	33	42	36	13	7	9	7	8
Israel	12	17	93	88	10	9	28	6	32	14
Egypt	8	5	26	28	4	7	4	7	7	6
South Africa	66	36	72	46	12	17	28	8	11	8
Japan	33	23	50	16	5	26	21	12	13	3
South Korea	18	31	45	29	6	2	27	9	17	4
China/Hong Kong	27	6	18	6	3	2	6	4	5	3
India	24	14	49	37	5	12	22	6	10	7
Australia	84	64	88	88	27	58	34	15	34	77



People in Russia: Canadians rank their paper/pulp exports highly—but many others do not

HEWERS OF WOOD

What products do you mostly associate with Canadian industries?

	Lumber/ Pulp and paper	Aerospace
Canada	43	5
United States	22	1
Mexico	26	1
Brazil	12	1
Chile	32	1
United Kingdom	34	1
France	36	4
Belgium	36	1
Germany	46	0
Italy	32	1
Ukraine	24	1
Russia	34	0
Israel	14	0
Egypt	20	12
South Africa	14	1
Japan	35	0
South Korea	38	2
China/Hong Kong	17	5
India	32	2
Australia	20	1



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Johnson (above):
In some ways,
I'm responsible

Too many tears

BY D'ARCY JENISH

Perhaps, in the solitude of her cell at a federal penitentiary near Rochester, Ont., Patricia Johnson occasionally weeps for the daughter she battered to death. Or perhaps in private conversations with friends or in flow interviews, she has talked about what must be done. But when Johnson, 33, testified last week in Toronto at an inquest into the October, 1993, death of her youngest child, 23-month-old Shanay, she shed no tears. Nor did the crack-addicted mother of four other children, who is currently serving a four-year sentence for manslaughter, admit to beating the toddler or smothering the horrific injuries—bruises, burns, wire cracks, missing teeth and brain damage—that contributed to her death. “I think in some ways I’m responsible,” concluded the tall, bespectacled woman, who often wailed in court or inquest when responding to the questions of Crown attorney Christine McGeown. “I don’t know why or how come I did it.”

The inquest may not get to the bottom of Johnson’s tragic shortcomings as a mother. But as part of a larger effort aimed at

**The news about
abused kids
just keeps
getting worse**

strengthening Ontario’s child protection system, it is expected to yield some answers about the inadequacies of the existing system. Last September, the provincial deputy coroner announced inquests into the deaths of Shanay Johnson and 11 other youngsters—all of whom died while under the protection of children’s and societies. Since then, the task force has compiled the first province-wide data on fatalities involving CAS-supervised children, and has started developing a standardized method of assessing the risks when returning children to homes where abuse has occurred. “There is no foolproof tool that will predict who will murder their child,” admits task force member Bruce Brown, executive director of the Children’s Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto. “But we are trying to improve our capacity to predict risk.”

Ontario’s child protection authorities are following in the footsteps of British Columbia and Manitoba, where significant reforms have been adopted in recent years. Since 1994, most Manitoba child welfare agencies have been using a risk assessment index,

developed by Winnipeg abuse experts Eric Sigurdson and Grant Reid, which allows a social worker to evaluate a family using objective factors such as past substance abuse, previous violence and the age of the children. British Columbia overhauled its system following an 18-month inquiry by provincial court judge Thomas Goss, who concluded in November, 1995, that the existing set-up was “fundamentally flawed.” As a result, Greg Clark’s NDP government last year created a ministry of children and families to deliver services previously provided by the different departments, and the premier appointed a child commissioner to investigate every youth death in the province. “This is overhauling a system that took generations to develop,” Minister for Children and Families Penny Priddy told Maclean’s. “It is not perfect—I’m not suggesting it is—but we are making good progress and we are trying to improve it.”

But the death of 39-year-old Vancouver resident Maria Flanders, apparently from a drug overdose, revealed glaring weaknesses in the new system and exposed the minister to some harsh criticism. On March 26—at least six days after she died—police discovered the woman’s body in a dirty apartment littered with rotting food, scattered clothing and drug paraphernalia. She was not alone. Clinging to her body was Flanders’s 22-month-old son, Chabasco, suffering from dehydration, swollen hands and feet, and severe diaper rash, hysterically trying to swallow his dead mother. Enraged at the sight, a social worker told Flanders that the child was supposed to be supervised closely by government home-care workers. “We’ve had nobody—including all of the folks who had contact with her—raise any kind of child protection issues with us,” said Priddy, who has asked Children’s Commissioner Cynthia Martin to investigate the death and to determine, among other things, whether Flanders was adequately monitored.

In Manitoba, the death of nine-month-old Sophia Schmidt in January, 1996, demonstrated the glaring weaknesses in that province’s child-welfare system, despite the reforms designed to improve it. The infant—who had a broken right arm and leg, three fractured ribs and a hole torn in one leg when she died—landed into a coffin and never recovered after being dropped and shaken violently by her stepmother, Norma Jean Seiden. 29. Seiden received a seven-year sentence for manslaughter last November, while Sophia’s natural father, Wade Turner, 38, will be sentenced this month for criminal negligence causing death. A report on the infant’s death, prepared by the province’s chief medical examiner, Dr. Peter MacKinnon, revealed that case workers with Winnipeg Child and Family Services disagreed with each other about leaving the child in Turner and Seiden’s care, then failed to monitor the couple adequately.

Critics contend that, due to policies set by Prime Glinck’s Conservative government, social workers in the province are preoccupied with keeping families together, sometimes even when there is a risk of neglect or abuse. That, they say, contributed to the deaths of Sophia and five other children who were killed last year

by abusive parents—while being supervised by government agencies. Manitoba children’s advocate Wayne Gower says that the government is concerned to family preservation and reunification—but he maintains that the practice is not providing enough funding to ensure that troubled families receive the help they need. “Families face a number of problems—poverty, unemployment, inadequate housing and substance abuse—in addition to violence in the home,” he said. “Child welfare workers cannot solve all these problems.”

In fact, child welfare authorities in both British Columbia and Ontario also argue that budget cutbacks have led to larger case-loads and increased pressures on front-line workers. The B.C. Government and Service Employees Union, which represents many of the province’s 4,400 social workers—5,500 of whom work with children—held a conference in February to discuss the issue. The result, early last month, hundreds of social workers called in sick or took extended lunch breaks to participate in demonstrations in front of B.C. office headquarters. The government contends that it hired 325 new social workers last year and filled more than 100 vacancies, allowing individual caseloads to drop, on average, from a high of 24 to about 20 at the end of January. Nevertheless, in mid-March Priddy announced that government and union officials had agreed to examine workloads to determine whether they are excessive. “We have heard the concerns and we’re committed to addressing those concerns,” she said.

Shanay: A social worker

**No single
problem explains
why parents kill
their children**

Ontario’s 35 children’s aid societies have lost about 560 employees—about 10 per cent of their workforce—over the past three years. With fewer staff and fewer employees, some societies have had to cut back on the number of families served. For example, the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, one of the largest agencies in the province, provided in-home counselling supervision to 3,474 families and 8,898 children last year, down from 3,922 families and 9,944 children two years earlier. But the needs in the community may actually have increased, according to Colin Maloney, executive director of the society. He says the government cutbacks of the 1990s, combined with a stagnant economy, have led to the emergence of a permanent underclass of poor, troubled people who have little or no chance of improving their situation. At the same time, highly addictive drugs like crack cocaine have become more readily accessible. Maloney says drug and alcohol abuse are factors in 40 per cent of the families his agency treats.

Reversals add up: over 80 per cent of the children his workers see live at or below the poverty line. But no single problem can account for why parents abuse, and sometimes kill, their children. “It would be nice to say that there was only one thing that went wrong in the family,” says Janet Christensen-Wood, a special investigator who deals with child deaths for the Manitoba child examiner. “But it’s usually a combination of things.” Most often, says employee aid, poverty and substance abuse are part of the volatile mix that leads to neglect, beatings or, most tragically, a dead child.

With SCOTT STRALE in Vancouver



Bonneville: I don't see any miracle other than to work!

THE BEAUCE

CANADA

Sticking together

St-Georges-de-Bonaventure promotes itself as an unlikely fashion Akriem from the mayor's office calls the small city 100 km south of Quebec City a "pleasing assembly"—then quickly launches it into everything St-Georges does not have. Situated in the Beauce, an isolated rural region that runs south along the Canadian border to the Maine border, St-Georges has few natural resources, no automobile, no railway, no airport, no large state institution. But the city of only 21,000 can afford to be a little playful about itself. In spite of its apparent drawbacks, St-Georges fosters a thriving business community as an area where, by some estimates, unemployment reaches only half the Quebec-wide rate of almost 12 per cent. That may be because of a local culture that has long celebrated risk-taking entrepreneurs. In fact, local economist Serge Roy says today's prosperity grew out of the Depression, when Beauverons first took dramatic steps to save their dying region. A few families started businesses at that time, including a textile factory, and somehow managed to save the seeds of a vital economy. "Small businesses that started in the '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s, today have become not just leaders in Quebec but in Canada," Roy says.

Perhaps the best-known example of Beauveron entrepreneurship dates back to the 1930s. That is when Rose-Anne Gosselin began concocting rich soups for the small bakery-bakery next to her home in St-Marie, 30 km north of St-Georges. With the

help of her husband, Joseph Arsade Vachon, and their children, the fledgling business eventually grew into the Vachon café empire, famous for its May West and Jos. Louis hot-food desserts. A few blocks from the old family home that is now a tourist site, 800 people work at the Vachon factory, now owned by Montreal-based Culinar Canada.

The region's economic activity still revolves around such small and medium-sized businesses. Leading industries include clothing, steel and wood products, and food processing. Even larger companies with Gelfing customers like bathroom fixture manufacturer Mass Inc., have learned how to thrive in the Beauce typically, they offset higher shipping and communication costs with lower labor and overhead expenses.

In St-Georges, one telling sign that some things just right in the region of Beauce. All but one of the major is represented, a highly unusual situation in such a small community, says Jacques Bérubé, director of commercial services at the National Bank. Lenders are particularly drawn to St-Georges by the health of the city's manufacturers. Bérubé says local entrepreneurs are increasing profits by exporting to the United States, helped by the favorable exchange rate and competitive production costs, according to Bérubé. "They're not afraid to take on the Americans," he adds,

"because they're strong in all markets." Among them is Jean Louis Bonnevillie whose wacky and dear attitude during company, Groupe Bonnevillie Inc., made an successful bid to enter the U.S. market in the early 1980s. Undaunted, he tried again—and now has a profitable U.S. arm like some of his peers. Bonnevillie repeats the term "le miracle des Beauverons," some terms used to describe the success of local businesses. "I don't see any miracle other than to work."

Rolland Veilleux offers another secret of the local success: residents are unusually willing to back one another with their own cash. The owner of Véloresta-dé-sports B&T Inc. in St-Georges, Canada's largest bicycle manufacturer, Veilleux started out in sewing machine medicine. Determined to do more with his life, he set up the company with two partners in 1974. They lost \$35,000 the first year, but, encouraged by the continuing financial support of a local, silent partner, he pressed on, making a strategic switch from sportswear to jeans. Now Véloresta employs 1,200 people and operates 14 factories—all but one of them in the Beauce—that make such brand name jeans as Levi's, J. Crew and Tommy Hilfiger. The privately held company raked in \$75 million in sales last year. Veilleux maintains that many successful entrepreneurs in the Beauce began on their feet, relying on others in the community for financial backing. "We had an ambition but no money," says Veilleux. "But I think what has made the Beauce strong is that those that had money had confidence in those that didn't."

St-Georges Mayor Roger Carrière believes that kind of solidarity was partly forged through centuries of isolation. Beauverons, he says, are a proud people imbued with a strong streak of perseverance. "People can use other words to say it in French," says Carrière, citing terms closer to "stubborn" and "pigheaded." Either way, it appears to be paying in more than just private profits. St-Georges boasts an industrial training institute that provides local companies with skilled workers. The institute also does applied research for local firms. Carrière says 50 per cent of graduates land jobs in their field before graduation.

While Beauverons may typically start small and humble, Veilleux says it is important to be realistic about the region's potential. "We can't imagine seeing a multinational in the Beauce," he notes. But in the end, such limitations may have an upside: having a diversified economy is more secure than relying on one big company. "All our eggs are not in the same basket," Veilleux says. They may be risk takers, but the Beauverons certainly do not appear to be gamblers.

IRENEA BRANSMITH



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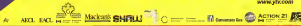
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2. The event will be 1 of 10 Places of 1000-1000 Shopping Spree at Future Shop.

3. In every week, most recently, winner is a representative of all-Canada. Odds of winning are determined by the number of entries received.

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CANADA



Privately owned Terminal 2 is a vote-getter for the Liberals that became a political liability

The final approach

At the time, the move looked like a sure winner. The federal Liberals won votes during the 1993 election campaign by promising to scrap a long-term lease for the Pearson International Airport. But by later dropping the agreement—widely viewed as a blatant example of patronage by the Mulroney government—the Liberals also created a political liability for themselves. Senate hearings probed every aspect of the decision, Pearson Development Corp., the assigned developer, sued the government for damages, the courts found the Chrétien government guilty of breach of contract. The ongoing trial to determine how much taxpayers' money the government will have to pay, which began 14 months ago, seemed to have the potential to rock the Liberals. But that was before last week. Instead of high political drama, the controversial case now seems to be heading towards a quiet, carefully timed deal.

The break came when the newspaper *Globe*/Toronto *Star* reported that Pearson International would pay \$720 million to the federal government providing rent relief—to the Pearson consortium to buy Terminal 3, which the developers bought into in the expectation that they would operate it together with the other two terminals. The proposed deal was a godsend for the con-

sortium, which had no interest in retaining the terminal once the privatization contract was scrapped. And it would clear away one of the biggest obstacles to a private sale in the Pearson case. "David Minister! Julia Rock still has to walk through the door and make it an offer," consortium lawyer Gordon Baker pointed out last week. But the Liberals, who last January settled out of court to end former prime minister Brian Mulroney's \$500-million legal action, indicated they are ready to deal. From their point of view, perhaps not a moment too soon—with an election call looming, the weaker the Pearson mess is cleared up, the better.

The saga began in Jan. 1989 when Kim Campbell's Conservative government, during its dying days in power, signed a contract to privatize and develop Pearson terminals 1 and 2. The triumphant consortium of developers included powerful Montreal businessman Charles Brodeur, as well as a host of big Tory supporters including Donald Matthews, then president of the Conservative party. And, naturally, they were buyers when Chrétien pulled the plug on their agreement. The Liberals claimed the deal was too generous to Tory supporters and had for Canadian taxpayers. The consortium sued. The government then tried to pass a bill limiting the developers' rights to sue and the amount of compensation they could



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demand. But it ran smack up against the Senate, where the Conservative majority, with the help of a lone dissenting Liberal, Saskatchewan's Birth Sparrow, defeated.

On Jan. 30, 1995, four months after the consortium's lawsuit against Ottawa began, Ontario Court Judge Stephen Baccus ruled that the government had breached the contract. But since hearings to decide the size of damages began in February, 1996, settlement has seemed out of the question. The government has insisted that it would only agree to compensate the developers for direct out-of-pocket expenses, amounting to about \$60 million, and not for things like lobbyist fees and forgone profits. Just as stubbornly, the consortium has insisted that it wants some kind of payback for the revenues it lost because the deal was shelved. If the complicated, contentious case runs its course, Ontario Court Judge Dennis Mahy is expected to render a decision before June '99.

If then, the federal election expected to be called far earlier than month should be over. All the same, federal strategists are nervous about entering an election campaign with the controversy still unresolved. Last week's events may change all that. Terminal 3 likely holds the key to the settlement. Shelving the construction of terminals 1 and 2 meant that the developers were saddled with a huge investment they no longer wanted. It made little business sense, from their point of view, to keep Terminal 3 if they could not operate the other two terminals. Finding a buyer was the problem. That is why Ottawa's decision last December to hand terminals 1 and 2 over to the GDA, a nonprofit corporation, was so important—and why Ottawa's recent decision to provide \$185 million in real relief to the GDA, which helped make the purchase of Terminal 3 possible, was a signal that the impasse could be broken. "We have always said there could not be a settlement until Terminal 3 is sold," declared Baccus. "Now, we have achieved that objective."

Ottawa, meantime, seems to be reading from the same playbook. In a cautiously worded written statement, Rock said that the purchase arrangement, "if and when outstanding conditions are fulfilled, should permit the conclusion of a settlement of the ongoing litigation." Both sides emphasize there is no deal yet. But settlement does seem to be in the air. Ottawa's motivation is obvious. And the consortium may have no other choice. Its legal bill continues to mount. Ottawa has already spent \$12 million on the case. And throughout the hearings, justice department lawyers have hinted that new legislation may still be launched to limit damages. Taken together, those factors could spell settlement of the airport issue within weeks. Buckle up for a possible election call.

JOHN McDONNELL is in Ottawa



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Canada NOTES

WAR CRIMES APPEAL

The Supreme Court of Canada said it will hear an appeal by three alleged Nazi war criminals—Heinrich Gonsky, John Doe and Erwin Tobias. The men's lawyers say a recent Federal Court of Appeal ruling that allowed their deportation hearings to continue should be overturned and a stay of proceedings granted. They claim judicial independence was compromised when a justice department official met with the Federal Court's chief justice.

MEGA-AMENDMENTS

Ontario's New Democrats and Liberals introduced 12,500 amendments to the Conservative government's controversial bill to amalgamate Toronto and five municipalities into one megacity. The procedural maneuvering could be up the legislature for at least 40 days, Speaker Chris Stockwell said. MPPs were forced to sit around the clock as each amendment, one of which the government expected to defeat, was read and voted on.

A WIN FOR THE GENERAL

Leves MacKinnon, 58, won the Conservative nomination for the federal Ontario riding of Perry Sound/Kitchik, a longtime Tory stronghold until the 1983 Liberal sweep. The flamboyant MacKinnon, a retired major-general, once commanded the United Nations peacekeeping force in Sarajevo, and now lives in the riding.

IPPERWASH TRIAL

Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Kenneth Deane "wastefully and recklessly" shot and killed Dudley George, a subaltern professor, during a bloody clash on Sept. 6, 1995, prosecutors claimed on the first day of the officers' trial. Deane has not acknowledged he killed George, but has pleaded not guilty to criminal negligence causing death. The shooting occurred after rioters escaped Ipperwash Provincial Park, saying it contained a sacred burial ground.

PSYCHOTIC DRIVER

Ontario Court Judge Bruce MacPhee ruled that Roger Lamoreux, who drove his Jeep up the steps of Parliament on Feb. 7, was not criminally responsible. MacPhee sent Lamoreux, 35, back to a psychiatric hospital where he has been confined for almost two months. A psychiatrist told the court that Lamoreux is psychotic.



WATER ON THE PRAIRIES:

A city employee in Moose Jaw tries to clear a drain as southern Saskatchewan is being hit by floods. Last week, ice jams on the Moose Jaw River caused the normally tame waterway to overflow its banks, resulting in millions of dollars in damage and forcing the evacuation of dozens of homes. Warmer weather helped dilute the ice, which cascaded downstream, damaging two bridges and destroying a third. "The levels dropped about three feet in a matter of minutes," said Rob Anzelov, assistant emergency measures co-ordinator. "It was just like somebody pulling a plug."

Reining in the Somalia inquiry

Eager to wrap up the Somalia inquiry before an election campaign, the federal government last week curbed the commission's mandate. The move appeared to contradict a Federal Court of Canada ruling, which said that Defence Minister Doug Young's decision to close down the inquiry by March 31 and force the commissioners to deliver a report by the end of June was unlawful. But the March 27 ruling by Justice Sandra Skene gave the defence minister a chance, either to extend the inquiry's deadline, or curtail its mandate to exclude those matters not yet examined. Last week, the government did just that, telling the commissioners

to report on the troubled 1993-1995 Somali mission's post-deployment phase, but leaving it to their discretion whether to touch on the events surrounding the infamous slaying of 18-year-old Somali Shidane Arone and the allegations of a subsequent defence department cover up. The commissioners said they would comply with the new directives, and deliver their report by June 30.

Also last week, Mary Coady, Doug Cox pleaded guilty at his court martial to negligent performance of duty for his role in investigating allegations related to Arone's death. The former senior defence department public affairs officer was given a reprimand and a \$2,000 fine.

Liberal anxieties over a spring election call

Opposition parties have accused for months that Prime Minister Jean Charest will call a spring election. The rumors, in political terms, were considerable: The Liberals high standing in the polls, and the divided state of the opposition. But that plan has faced growing protests from Ontario Liberals, primarily in the Toronto area. They say voters do not understand why the government needs to call an election only 3 1/2 years into its mandate. And, said one organizer, Liberal support "aborts all the signs of being a mile wide and an inch deep." An Angus Reid poll last week showed the party's support has slipped to 41 per cent, down five points since February.

Palestinians see hope dimming for a real peace

When came prepared. Armed with a gas mask, a pair of yellow gardening gloves and a powerful throwing arm, he took the lead in a group of Palestinian youths hurling stones at Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem last week. With his deluxe equipment, 17-year-old Hanez was in charge of antislugging up tear gas canisters and lobbing them back over the barbed wire at the Israelis. " Netanyahu is crazy," he shouted. "If he wants war, we're ready. If he wants peace, we're ready for that too. And if he wants more settlements there will be more explosions."

From Hebron to Ramallah, the detritus of demonstrations fills the roads: stones, tear gas canisters, the occasional bullet casing. Even after the soldiers and the stone throwers go home, the litter remains to go on and under car tires—a reminder of the turbulent days of the Palestinians' 1989-1993 intifada. Palestinian hospitals reported that at least 300 people were injured in the past two weeks by low gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition. Two young men died. It is a rough time for the Oslo peace process—and the remainder of this reveals only part of an escalating challenge.

Road to nowhere?

In Gaza on April 1, two Palestinians blew themselves up in homemade suicide bombings aimed at Israeli settlements. The next day, a petrol bomb ignited more than a dozen Israeli soldiers in a town near Ramallah. Israel retaliated by troops near the new townships West Bank, cities with Israeli and armed personnel cars, Israeli tanks, soldiers and police guarded bus stops and shopping malls as the country braced for more bombings. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, embattled and isolated, spoke of "a divi crisis."

Crisis ended. Since work started on a new Jewish settlement south of Jerusalem, Israeli-Palestinian relations have hit their lowest point since 1989. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are not speaking; their teams of negotiators are not negotiating. The only common word is "crisis." With stone throwings a daily event and bombings increasingly common, many on both sides say the peace process is near collapse. As Netanyahu prepared for a visit to Washington early this week, the United States was pressuring both sides to patch things up and start talking again. And they probably will—because life or not, this peace process is the only game in town. "There are no other options," says Palestinian political analyst Ghassan Khuri. But Palestinians increasingly question whether what is left of the process is leading anywhere.

The protests erupted when Israeli broke ground for the long-planned settlement at Har Hama, between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, on March 18. Since then, the government has said that other

West Bank settlements will continue to expand and new roads will be built at Arab land. Palestinians argue that settlement expansion is illegal under the terms of the 1993 Oslo peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. And they know that as the Israeli population grows in the West Bank and other roads slash through the land, their dream of sovereignty will recede ever further. But only the United States has the power to force an end to settlement building, and despite unarmored protests from the rest of the world, Washington does not seem ready to exert that kind of pressure. So Palestinians can do little else but protest.

The Arab world, though, is increasingly incensed, and that is driving one of the major schisms within the Arab world for the past three years, better relations with its neighbors. Last week, the Arab League voted in favor of stopping all multilateral talks involving Israel, freezing co-operation and contacts, and renouncing all economic boycotts. If the decision is enforced—and the language used was unprecedentedly strong, although it was rewording—Israel would be shunned back to the regional isolation of pre-Oslo days.

That is not engaging, but it is lonely. The idea of getting along with their neighbors is important to Israelis, and the local press has sharply criticized Netanyahu for damaging this most valuable of gifts from the peace process. "It's a matter of having the fear of a war dogging us again, when only a few weeks ago we could think about going on vacations to some of these countries," said Jassia

Cohen, a Tel Aviv secretary, about the boycott.

Many Palestinians, as well as Israeli critics, accuse Netanyahu of deliberately provoking the crisis in order to scotch a peace process he had long opposed. "This deterioration must be deliberate—otherwise he's so stupid it's impossible to believe," says Yael Dayan, an opposition Labour Party MP and daughter of late defense minister Moshe Dayan. Netanyahu insists he is willing to continue talking if Arafat can guarantee security. He has also stopped jumping directly to a Camp David-style summit to determine the Palestinian final status. Yet he made his political name—and won elections with repeated vows that he would never allow a Palestinian state or relinquish any control over east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians claim as their capital. Palestinians say both are necessary for any sort of permanent solution. By continually insisting that he will concede on neither, Netanyahu may push Palestinians past a point Arafat can control.

Since a March 21 suicide bombing at Tel Aviv that killed four, Israel has kept up a chorus of demands that the PLO leader "crack down on terror." That may not be so easy as it sounds. After a wave of suicide attacks last winter, Arafat pulled at least 2,000 supporters of militant Islamic groups, and Hamas leader Ghani Ahmad as-

Arafat (right) is a key figure in Gaza (left): Netanyahu, new talks may not help

knowledge the organization was "indirectly crippled." The Tel Aviv bombing appears to have been the work out of his movement but of a suicide bomber or a breakaway cell. And the militant organizations quickly washed their hands of the botched bombing attempts in Gaza last week. While the bombers were members of the smaller Islamic Jihad, its political leaders in Gaza—normally quick to claim even failed as victory—and they "knew absolutely nothing" about them.

Israel and the United States can do much for their Arab citizens, but they may not be able to do much about individuals who decide to vent their outrage with explosives. "It takes only one individual or a small group," explains Ziad Abu Amr, an expert on Islamist movements. "The knowledge and the expertise is there—all you need is one volunteer." Israel's security checks are keen to avoid provoking an obvious spark. Last week, they cautioned the government to drop a longstanding demand for the extradition of Hamas political leader Musa Abu Mawaz from the United States, where he has lived since 1982. Although officials blame him for masterminding a wave of earlier killings, they feared that his extradition would set off more West Bank violence.

The Palestinian Legislative Council, the Palestinian opposition parties and even Arafat's own Fatah organization have called on him to stop negotiations with Israel. Meanwhile, his police officers have the job of keeping Palestinian protesters in check and away from their Israeli targets. "We're hard to fool," says one young officer said in Hebron last week, grabbing the arm of a would-be stone thrower. "During the intifada I threw stones myself, but now I do Israel's police work." His instruction is echoed across the West Bank and Gaza. Arafat may still have control over the street, but it will not last forever—especially if he cannot show his people some sort of trade-off for the settlements that grow before their eyes.

The most obvious route out of the current impasse is a U.S.-brokered deal, like the January Hebron accord, which led to a partial Israeli withdrawal from that city. "An American initiative is the only thing that will save Oslo," says Martin Kupper, a political scientist at Tel Aviv University. "Only the Americans can get them talking, can arrest Netanyahu, can give the Palestinians some guarantees." But Khuri isn't so sure. Palestinians, he says, fear that even if talks resume—and both sides agree they probably soon will—there will be no deal. There will be another deal, more negotiations—and then, Netanyahu stays in character, another new Jewish settlement, more riots, and the cycle begins again.

Some Israeli say the solution may be in a "national unity government"—a coalition with the Jewish Labor Party that started the Oslo process. Netanyahu has remained open to the idea, but would it be enough? "The only thing that will stop the cycle over Israel is to implement what it has already agreed to and not done, and to stop expanding settlements," says Khuri. "Until that happens, and the causes of this crisis are addressed, nothing is going to change." Yassir Arafat, who has made an art of hurling the stones of Palestinian protest, says he "thinks the intifada in Bethlehem last week, peace was hard to spot. But there were a lot more stones."

STEPHANIE NOLEN in Jerusalem



A Palestinian takes aim in Bethlehem: daily clashes



Scandalous
in Sydney:
controversy

WORLD AUSTRALIA

A crisis of identity

The rise of racism highlights a growing sense of insecurity

There is no doubting what Independent Australian MP Pauline Hanson stands for. She wants to freeze immigration, reduce the proportion of Asians in Australia, and end any special treatment for Aboriginal people. Nor does she show much mercy. Last December four Aboriginal boys walked into her office in the nine-story Queensland riding of Oakey to shout abuse and spit at her. Hanson reacted that three of the boys, all under 12, be formally charged with aggravated assault and remanded in custody over Christmas. "I am speaking for the community out there also," she declared. "We have a right to feel safe."

Despite the firestorm of criticism her campaign has touched off, Hanson has no plans to let up. This week she intends to launch her own political party, and she maintains that she could be prime minister "down the track." Although over a some of her own supporters have rebelled at her dictatorial ways, Hanson, 42, has clearly struck a chord with voters. A recent opinion poll showed that 62 per cent of respondents backed her call for an immigration freeze and more than half want to scale back on Asian migration. Her noisy nationalism, critics believe, has raised the emergence is a worrying sign both of the

growing racial tensions just below the surface of Australian society—and of the country's growing identity crisis. "We are clearly a very insecure society right now," says prominent social researcher Hugh MacLennan, "and therefore quite vulnerable to propaganda and demagoguery. This is a pivotal period in Australia's history."

Canadians are all too familiar with some of the factors that have transformed Australia from its long-held status as "The lucky country," where life was easy, to a place with a deepening sense of unease about its future. One is the controversial effort by conservative Prime Minister John Howard, elected a year ago, to remake Australia through major changes in such areas as social programs, health care, deficit reduction, labor relations, education and Aboriginal issues. Another is the ill-fort from the recession of the early 1990s, which wiped out spurious class job security in the public sector as well as housing, insurance and other white-collar industries. Despite recent strong economic growth, unemployment is still high—never far below nine per cent—and retail sales are stagnant. And though, like Canadians, Australians rate their general satisfaction with life highly in the Angus Reid Group's Canada



Hanson and immigrant voters strike a chord



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and the World poll this week, many remain pessimistic about their career prospects.

Beyond economics, moreover, the fierce over immigration has cast a shadow on Australia's attempts to decide whether it is truly a part of the east or simply a European outpost on the fringes of a booming region. And all of this plays out against a constitutional debate over whether Australia should sever all constitutional ties with Britain and declare itself a republic before the Olympic Games in Sydney in the year 2000.

When Howard was campaigning last year to end 13 years of Labor government, he promised to create a "comfortable and relaxed Australia." The right-leaning platform clearly appealed to many Australians outside the big coastal cities, and his coalition swept in with a 45-seat majority. In fact, the previous Labor administration of Paul Keating had already realized the need for fundamental restructuring of such hallowed practices as centralized wage bargaining and protection for Australian industries, says Gerard Henderson, executive director of The Sydney Institute think-tank. "A lot of the change is not taking place because they have to in an internationalizing economy, not just because they are directed by politicians with ideological concerns," says Henderson.

But Howard's moves have led to ferocious debate, and even violence. Some union members were so incensed by a new law that reduced the power of labor arbitrators that they "wheeled and dealt" and provoked local hooliganism that they stormed the doors of Parliament House in Canberra last August with battering rams. The ensuing riot left more than 200 people injured. Since then there have been other, more peaceful protests by low-income earners, public housing tenants, nurses and doctors, university students and Aboriginal people, all ostensibly angry about reductions in state aid and protection.

MacKay points out that the uncertainty about job prospects for middle-class Australians has come as a profound shock to many. In the 1950s and 60s, there was virtually full employment for native-born Australians and for the thousands of new immigrants encouraged to come over from Italy, Greece, Malta and elsewhere in Europe. "This is a hard time to tell history after the war," MacKay says. "Only top-notch mafiosi could not get work and build a comfortable life here. In that period, so you have to understand how unsettling it is for a generation of people, and their children, who had very high expectations to now be facing an uncertain future."

Howard's supporters have clearly decided that the real of the difficulty lies in the wave of Asian immigration that began in the 1970s after the end of the Vietnam, European-only "white Australia" policy. Then, there were fewer than 10,000 non-British-born in Australia. Now, the proportion is around five per cent of the population, and Asians make up approximately 40 per cent of the young intake of new arrivals. Henderson argues that Asians have "swamped" Australia. Supposedly, they are changing the fabric of Australian culture and taking jobs away from those "her supporters call 'real' Australians," although demographers have consistently proved this to be false. Tensions between some whites and the large, highly mobile and increasingly affluent Asian minority in places like Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane continue to rise.

Stressor's most acute, explicitly stated in her maiden speech to a hushed Parliament in Canberra last September, has unfolded a torrent of negative comment inside Australia and in influential media throughout Asia. The overseas criticism of Howard—and of Howard's reluctance to unequivocally condemn her—raised fears for Australia's multibillion-dollar trade with Asia, as well as a lucrative tourism industry and efforts to attract thousands of foreign investment university students. But the uneducated Howard who she formed her political views first as a harridan and then as the owner of a fading-chips shop, pledges to field a full slate of federal candidates under her new party, called Pauline Hanson's One Nation.

The debate over the place of Asians in Australia is occurring at the same time as the one over Australia's place in Asia. Despite the country's historic links with Britain and Europe, for example, premier Keating decided to make engagement with the region to the north a key part of his foreign policy. While Howard has not completely disavowed Keating's Asian thrust, he does not appear as enamored of it as his predecessor and has demonstrated that relations with Europe and the United States are still a major priority. "We do not claim to be Asian," Howard said in a speech during a closely watched visit to Indonesia last year. "I do not believe that Australia faces a choice between our history and our geography, between our links with Europeans and North American societies on the one hand and those with the nations of Asia on the other."

Last week, Howard made his first visit to China, where he promoted trade cautiously and stressed "a balanced, commonsense approach" to relations. Regional suspicions about the true extent of Canberra's commitment to Asia once again gripped Victorian Prime Minister Jeff Kennett. He said, "I am never less than a little bit suspicious of the motives of the people who are saying 'When you're rich, you're Australia; when you're poor, you're America; when America is rich, when Asia gets rich, you become Asia.'"

Some argue that at least part of the uncertainty about Australia's identity in Europe and Asia could be eliminated if the nation were to dump Queen Elizabeth II as head of state and declare itself a fully independent republic. Australia's citizens have long argued that Asian neighbors are confused by complex explanations for Australia's allegiance to a foreign monarch, and for new citizens having to swear an oath to the Queen. "Australia, like other nation-states, needs a clearer focus for its national identity," Richard Woodcut, a distinguished former diplomat, told an Australian Republic Movement rally in Sydney. "I believe that the declaration of an Australian republic will be welcomed throughout Asia and seen as a step to strengthening its identity and involvement with the region." Republicans believe the move could also inspire people to begin the work of rebuilding the racial cohesion and confidence now so clearly lacking at home. "That, and some clear recognition with the Aboriginal people of this country, would give a sense of a fresh start," says John Rickard, an Australian studies professor at Melbourne's Monash University. But with Pauline Hanson sparking fire, the country is anything but One Nation.

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MICHAEL ROSS is in Sydney.

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MORE TROUBLE IN TIRANA

A rift emerged in Albanian President Sali Berisha's rightist party as about 20 members accused him of sowing too much power. The political infighting adds to the trouble facing an Italian-led peace force of up to 6,000 troops that will begin operations in the rebellious country on April 14 to protect aid shipments. Tensions with Italy rose after up to 80 Albanians drowned when their ship collided with an Italian navy vessel.

PEACE TALKS FOR ZAIRE

As Zairean government and rebel armies headed to negotiations in South Africa, newly appointed Prime Minister Eliezer Itzhakson offered rebels an cabinet seat in a provisional government. But rebel leader Laurent Kabila's forces said they would not stop advancing while President Mobutu Sese Seko remains in power. Top international and officials issued an urgent plea to appeal to help thousands of starving refugees trapped by the conflict.

KOHL WANTS TO STAY

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Germany's longest-serving leader since Otto von Bismarck last century, said he intends to run for a fifth term in 1998. Kohl, who oversaw the reunification of East and West Germany in 1990, has held office for 14 years, compared with Bismarck's 13. Kohl cited a "duty" to see his country through an economic crisis and Europe's planned currency union.

POST-SOVIET FRIENDS

Russia and neighboring Belarus agreed a Union Treaty that brings the two former members of the Soviet Union closer together, but falls short of the full merger proposed by impoverished Belarus. The two countries plan to co-ordinate economic reform and military activities, link energy and transportation systems, and possibly introduce a common currency.

LEGAL INCEST

A Spanish judge passed a law that gives full status to non-traditional couples, including a brother and sister who have been living together for 18 years and have two children. The siblings were separated in childhood but fell in love as adults after meeting by chance in a clinic visit. They chose to continue their relationship even after learning of their shared bloodline.



STRAWBERRY SCARE: A four-year-old Los Angeles boy gets a germie globulin shot as part of an effort to inoculate thousands of children who ate school desserts containing Mexican-grown strawberries tainted with the hepatitis A virus. Nearly 200 kids were reported sick in southern Michigan; five other states were affected. A Canadian health inspector said frozen strawberries from the same source went to British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick in 1994, but were used in baking, which kills the virus. The disease causes flu-like symptoms but is rarely fatal.

The Heaven's Gate cult lives on

It was bound to happen: barely a week after 39 members of the Heaven's Gate cyber-cult committed suicide, an American network announced that it plans to air a made-for-television series based on their story. ABC Television signed a deal for a movie that will center on Richard Ford, also known as Rio D'Angelo, a 43-year-old former cult member who discovered the bodies inside a mansion in the wealthy San Diego suburb of Rancho Santa Fe on March 26. Officials, meanwhile, said they were winding down their investigation into the mass suicide by followers of Marshall Herff Applewhite, 66. He taught that members of Heaven's

Gate could free themselves from their bodies (or "vehicles") and ascend to heaven in a UFO landing behind the comet Hale-Bopp.

However, outraged at those beliefs, officials said it appeared that no laws were broken when the cult members killed themselves, mostly by ingesting barbiturates laced by vodka. But some former members cautioned that other suicides may follow. They warned that other North American believers in Heaven's Gate—estimated at anywhere from a few dozen to several hundred—continue to prepare for the arrival of a UFO to transport them to what they call "The level above heaven."

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Axworthy goes softly, softly in China

States will pursue "long-term and incremental" diplomacy on human rights abuses in China, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said after meeting Chinese Premier Li Peng in Beijing. Despite his reputation for activism on the issue, Axworthy said he believes a quiet approach is more productive than confrontation with China, which has pulled out nearly 100,000 troops. In contrast, U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich lashed out at China's human rights record while visiting last week, saying Beijing's desecration of Tiananmen should be punished. He declared that U.S. troops would defeat Taiwan if China tried to take the island by force.

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Cusack: a decade later,
he recalls being "pretty
out of it back then"

Back to high school

When screenwriter **Tom Jenkinson** showed **John Cusack** an outline for a black comedy about a hit man who attends his 10-year high-school reunion, the actor was intrigued. So intrigued, in fact, that Cusack signed on as co-screenwriter and coproducer as well as for the lead role of Martin Q. Blank, the hired gun who is beginning to have doubts about his career choice. In *Grease Peak*, which opens this week, Blank returns to his home in the sweltering Detroit suburb of Grease Peak to reunite with his high-school sweetheart, Dede (*Thelma & Louise*'s Deland), attend the reunion—and do one last hit. The screenplay was a under way in

1994, Cusack says, when he attended his own 10-year high school reunion in Evanston, Ill. "We totally rewrote it after that," says Cusack, acknowledging that he put into the film script as much as he could from his real-life experience. That includes a just-married couple showing up in their wedding finery, the swirling smog whose smoke has turned to fat, and the young mother shelled with her life and her baby but there was one element of the movie reunion that did not actually happen: he had no high-school sweetheart waiting for him in Evanston. Explains Cusack "I was pretty out of it back then."

The youngest and best

All smiles and curls, teenager **Martina Hingis** arrived on the professional tennis scene two years ago to glowing reviews. But last week, ahead of even the most enthusiastic schedule, the 16-year-old Swiss sensation became the youngest woman ever to claim the top spot in international rankings. After capturing her 10th title of 1997 by defeating **Monica Seles** in the final at the Lipton Championships in Miami on March 28, Hingis overtook long-time No. 1 **Steffi Graf** of Germany, who has missed two months due to a knee injury. Though not as powerful as Graf or Seles, Hingis's recent results are even more dazzling—she is 26-0 in matches played in 1997. She covers the court well and surprises opponents with her creative shot selection. She doesn't lack for confidence either. "I was," Hingis says simply, "unbeatable right now."

Hingis: beyond after a
spree of wins



Dimitrova: a concert with a special connection

In a father's footsteps

Parent **Masha Dimitrova** can look forward to more than the usual thrill of playing when she performs with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on April 28. For Dimitrova, 31, it will also mark a special connection with her late estranged father, **Leonid Karpilovskiy**, who left her in her native Ukraine when she was only 8. Karpilovskiy, who began first viola with the Winnipeg orchestra, died in 1984. In 1993, Dimitrova appealed through a Winnipeg newspaper for information about him. The response was encouraging, and she later met with artistic director **Rowland Toney**, who offered her the concert seat. "I am very excited about it," Dimitrova confessed from her home in Bremen, Germany. "In this orchestra, there are a lot of friends of my father, people who know him for years and were familiar with him."

Mitchell finds her long-lost daughter

Back in the 1960s, before she had become a Canadian music legend, **Joni Mitchell** was an art student in Calgary. That period of her biography is well-known. Less well-known is that at the time, Mitchell gave birth to a baby girl and the father, **Brian Mitchell**, now a Toronto photographer, subsequently put up for adoption. In 1965, last week came word that, after a public appeal and a lengthy search by private investigators, the two were reunited. Mitchell, 33, declined to comment, as did her Vancouver-based manager. But *The New York Post* describes the singer's daughter as "a stunning model and a dead ringer for mom in her lower-power hit days." Mitchell's father, **Bill Anderson**, who still lives in her home town of Saskatoon, says he has seen pictures of his granddaughter. "and you can see the similarities [to Joni]," adds Anderson. "Apparently, her daughter was looking for her, too, so there's sort of a fairy-tale ending."



Dr. Guezman's funeral in Quezon City, last week.

Business

Busang mystery

BY JENNIFER WELLS

In the mining industry, amongst the red-crest crowd that still hangs out at Hy's steakhouse in downtown Toronto, Graham Pangarasan is known as "Dr. Death." Pangarasan has built a company called Strathcona Mineral Services Ltd. When hopeful junior mining outfits with promising exploration plays want an independent assessment of the viability of a mineral discovery, they often turn to Pangarasan. Sometimes, he tells them what they do not want to hear: that their fabulous discovery is a dud. Hence the nickname.

These days, Pangarasan, 56, a four-recreational-hobby player, finds himself 180 km up the Mahakam River in the heart of Borneo. This is unquestionably his hottest assignment yet: to determine the size of the Busang gold reserves, still tested by Bre-X Minerals Ltd. of Calgary in the biggest gold deposit on the planet, even though Strathcona itself and when it was returned last month that the pot of gold had been "contaminated due to invalid samples and the missing of these samples." It was that statement, coupled with the dry bones drilled in the secret spot of the alleged ho-

mines March 23 death of Bre-X geologist Mike de Guezman, that drove Bre-X shares into the ground, taking shorn investors with them. By the middle of last week, Pangarasan's team had drilled two holes. The company expects to drill four more. The core samples pulled from Busang will be held under tight security, shipped to assay labs in Perth, Australia.

Strathcona is doing its work under the watchful eye of their interested parties: John Felderhof and Jerry Aho, representing the beleaguered Bre-X team; Dave Pettit, vice-president, exploration, of Prospect Indonesia, four representatives of Indonesia's ministry of mines and department of geology; and, in a more secretariat touch, unnamed officers of the Indonesian army. Only when Dr. Death makes his pronouncement will the Bre-X saga—or The Mystery of Busang, FWIW, as *Jakarta's* *Gatra* magazine calls it—come clear.

There is no satisfaction in that for Bre-X investors. One Montreal shareholder, who's bought in the summer of 1995, and lost just what he had "lost everything. Really, my whole life is gone." He had earlier taken some profits by selling a small portion of his position. With that, he bought a home in Arizona, which he put on the market last

week. He is currently staying with his mother. He puts his personal loss at \$2 million. He is outraged that the Toronto Stock Exchange allowed Bre-X to trade. "I think this [Bre-X] person [TSX president Ronald Fleming] should be fired. Do you know how many lives this has ruined?" Last week, he found himself listening sympathetically to a broker at the Toronto Dominion Bank's Green Line Investor Services. The broker had bought in at \$15. Bre-X closed last week at \$3.18.

But Bre-X has done nothing yet to help its own case. Last week, the TSX and the Quebec Securities Commission released a much-noticed report from the Indiana one office of Kibara SNC-Lavalin Inc., the Canadian engineering firm retained by Bre-X in 1995. The Kibara study consisted of "thick assays" conducted by Chorus Labs Ltd. and Accor Analytical Laboratories Ltd., both of Vancouver. But these trusted rock samples provided by Bre-X. There was no new drilling. The report, which said that the data "appeared to confirm the usual gold determination," failed to allay the suspicions that the samples, either accidentally through technological error, or intentionally through "hoaxing," were contaminated. "I don't think it ad-

born report turned up anything new, and that the assay certificates of Chorus Labs stated that "systemic seeping... is a simple, rapid procedure for gold analysis," only further deepened Walsh's credibility.

And shareholders went his head. There are now no class-action suits, five of them launched in the United States, betting that if Strathcona comes up with any gold at all, its numbers will fall far short of Bre-X's promises. Last Thursday, Harvey Strubberg, a Windsor lawyer who was part of the federal legal team as the *Asio* investigations launched the first Canadian suit, seeking \$8.1 billion. Later than that, he filed a suit in the United States, claiming a conspiracy of transfers, including Walsh and Felderhof, secured false statements of the gold reserves, failed to disclose the cancellation of an exploration permit last August, and profited from trading of Bre-X shares before insiders learned of the action.

The cancellation of the exploration permit, or SEP, remains a crucial issue. Benny Walsh, secretary general of the Indonesian Mining Association, says that if the Busang samples were not determined, the SEP would be awarded in a mere matter of a few days. But he also says that the SEP would be awarded in a matter of a few days.



Bre-X employees on site last year; the company analysts were from "Dr. Death"

vores the story," says Rick Cohen, a mining analyst with Gorgel Strathcona & Partners Inc. in Vancouver. "Since everybody would have been working with the same samples, if I show you is that the assay lab results can be duplicated, it still doesn't explain why Prospect came up with zero." In a letter last week to the TSX's Fleming, Bre-X CEO David Walsh complained that shares in Bre-X had been dropped for trading after he personally informed Fleming to keep the stock halted. "I further explained that this was a complex one body with an equally complicated assay process, all to no avail," Walsh wrote. But Walsh's protestations may fallow. That the I-

But not before the OGC, the TSX and the Alberta Securities Commission launched an investigation into, according to the OGC, "whether there has been a breach of continuous disclosure requirements or under trading provisions." Last week, the regulators, who are now starting to feel the heat from investors over the absence of independent auditing of the Bre-X gold claims, took the unusual step of issuing a news release confirming their investigations.

The authorities were looking into the legitimacy of the cancellation of the SEP when Merlina's son with Mike de Guezman in Jakarta in February. Dr. Guezman did not spend much time in Jakarta, though he kept a mistress there. He built most of his time between Busang and Manado, in the northern part of Sulawesi. Manado was close to his wife, closer to his Philippines home in Quezon City. In Manado, he kept an office and another mistress. According to a former colleague, he had bought a four-story house in Quezon City. He did not show it. While fellow geologist Felderhof was a bundle of nerves on the eve of striking a recovered son of understanding with Prospect and Hansen, de Guezman was cool and serene. He shrugged off a law suit launched months before by a Jakarta businesswoman, named Josef Merdek. "It's becoming a nuisance," he said of the allegations who wanted a piece of Busang.

Dr. Guezman's family says they do not buy the story that the geologist's death was a suicide, that he jumped from a helicopter over Ternate East Friday, they flew the body home for burial in Quezon City. For Bre-X watchers, a group that now includes 400 shareholders for Busang and the company's shareholders, de Guezman's death remains the centrepiece of the Busang mystery. □



Misery on the markets

Higher rates spell trouble for stocks and home buyers

BY TOM FENNEL

Real estate broker Don Campbell has seen both sides of the property market—from the soaring 1980s, when bidding wars for houses were commonplace, to the early 1990s, when the market entered a prolonged slump. Now, the good times are back. At Campbell's office in the recent town of Mississauga, Ont., 100 km northwest of Toronto, offers are arriving by fax from across the province, sales are up 37 per cent over last year and houses that sat for months without a nibble now sell in days. The market caught the last winter when interest rates dropped to 15-year lows—allowing cash-strapped couples to buy their first homes and Campbell to buy a new one. Last week, however, Canada's major banks hiked mortgage rates as much as half a percentage point, raising concerns that the real estate revival will be short-lived. "Things just seemed to get rolling again," Campbell says, "and now they're pulling the brakes on."

The rate increases threaten more than just the housing market. Across North America, stock market investors were well into last week as share prices dropped sharply and analysts spoke of a long trend



Wall Street traders: so far, small investors seem to be sitting tight

market slump. At the same time, foreign exchange traders who just weeks ago were forecasting an 80-cent (U.S.) Canadian dollar had to rethink their calculations when the currency fell nearly to 71.81 cents, its lowest level in two years. The dollar closed the week at 71.81

There was no dispute about the cause of the sudden change in sentiment. On March 25, U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan raised the benchmark federal funds rate a quarter of a point to 5.5 per cent, calling it a "prudent step" to head off a possible rise in inflation. Higher interest rates hurt stock prices because they depress corporate earnings, and because they increase the incentive for investors to dump their shares in favor of fixed-income securities such as bonds. By week's end, the S&P 500 index in New York had fallen 599 points, or 7.3 per cent, from its all-time high of 7,885 on March 11. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index was off 515 points, or 4.1 per cent, from a record high of 6,330 on March 20.

The financial turmoil appears unlikely to end anytime soon. Ted Carnahan, head of research at J. P. Morgan Canada, a Toronto-based investment bank, predicts that the Federal Reserve will move rates another half a percentage point between now and August as it attempts to rein in economic growth. In response, Carnahan believes, Bank of Canada governor Gordon Thiessen will be forced to raise rates four times by year-end, pushing the key overnight bank rate

now 3.25 per cent, up to full percentage point. The impact on mortgage rates over the next few months could be even greater. Although consumer loans are generally pegged to the Bank of Canada rate, mortgage rates are subject to fluctuations in the bond market—the source, ultimately, of the money that Canadians borrow to buy houses. When a

ternational monetary conference in Canada or begin to fear an outbreak of inflation, interest rates on bonds rise, pushing up mortgages. That is why mortgage rates have already risen twice in recent weeks while the bank rate has remained unchanged.

In the past few months, the housing sector has been among the healthiest components of the Canadian economy, with sales of existing properties surging 25.5 per

STRENGTH OF TEAMWORK

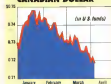


Analyst warehouse reorganization costs with management team

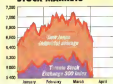
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cost in February over the same month a year earlier. Many analysts believe the demand for real estate will start to level off if the rate continues to rise above 7.75 per cent, but it could soar as high as eight per cent. Given the uncertainty about the border, that could well happen within the next few weeks. In the interim, however, observers expect a flurry of real estate activity as consumers with pre-approved mortgages rush to buy before their rate guarantees expire. "The fence others will make their move," says Alan Sternstein, a Toronto real estate broker and author of five books on the subject. "But others, who were questionable buyers to begin with, are not going to be able to buy."

If those would-be buyers also happen to have money invested in stocks or stock-linked mutual funds, chances are they are already feeling poorer. Kathleen Bradley, a senior adviser at the MITES Institute in Toronto, says that her computer models—which predict the future course of share prices based on an analysis of, among other things, stock prices, trading volumes and interest rates—suggest that both are due to fall about 10 to 15 per cent from their recent highs. She adds that the market could tumble as much as 15 to 20 per cent if interest rates continue on their upward course. "We have entered a rising interest-rate environment," says Bradley. "There is a very good chance we could go below 10 per cent."

Meanwhile, plummeting stock prices pose a major test of the theory—widely debated in recent months—that individual investors are more likely to remain in the market through a prolonged downturn. Over the past few years, small investors have pumped billions of dollars into stocks and stock mutual funds, a development that some analysts feared could add to the volatility of the market. At least, those shareholders appear to be resisting the urge to sell. Maurice Burke, 35, of Toronto says he intends to stay fully invested in stocks despite the correction. Burke, who owns \$20,000 of shares in a mutual fund that lost 20% of its value in the wake of the last market collapse in 1987, told *Forbes* many shareholders he has been reading up on that period for lessons that might apply to today's situation. Her conclusion: investors who sold out a scanty-earnings recovery the last time may have missed the market's large rally. In contrast, those who

cut and run when stock prices are falling often runs out on the all-important upward swings that follow a correction. "The market works in cycles," said Barke. "I'm not going to jump in and out."

Professional money managers are more pessimistic in the near term. Many say the indexes will have to fall much further before they start to buy again. Stephen Jurekowsky,

of cheap stocks around," says Jorikowsky. "There would be a need for the future."

With 14 million Canadians out of work, many people might question whether there should be increased aid. But Carmichael cites a number of indicators that suggest the Canadian economy is, in fact, expanding rapidly. He notes that factories and plants across the country are running at 85 per cent capacity—a rate not seen since the economic boom in 1989. And last month



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FIVE-YEAR MORTGAGE RATE

Construction workers at a Toronto suburb: some mortgage rates may cool demand

the unemployment rate fell to 9.8 per cent from 9.7 per cent in February, a sign that the past of job creation is picking up. As well, a closely watched measure of Canada's money supply—the total amount of currency in circulation and in bank accounts—increased 19 per cent over the past 12 months, almost three times the typical rate of increase. To some analysts, that rise

The Canadian dollar's recent weakness suggests that investors still don't really trade on belief. Interest cannot keep up with rising rates in the United States. At 3.25 per cent, the Bank of Canada rate is already two per cent above the lower than the U.S. federal funds rate. "Canadian rates have to follow suit or the Canadian dollar will collapse," says John G. Farnham, president of the BSC Dominion Securities. If he and other analysts are right, potential housewreckers are ripe, potential housewreckers may choose to remain on the sidelines for many months to come. □



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The Bottom Line

How soon they forget

Several weeks ago, a special committee of the Toronto Stock Exchange released a report titled *Responsible Corporate Disclosure: A Search For Balance*. Information, it noted, "is only the lifeblood of trading on securities markets." The report reflects upon the uncertainties that exist around disclosure and

In mining circles, the popular wisdom now is that Bre-X will poison the pot for Canada's other junior mining ventures. Experts claim the bad taste from Bre-X will linger, making it harder for small companies to raise capital and hinder their growth. For a short while, that may be true. But in the end, bet on the investors will graze on junior mines again. Because in the stock market—as in real estate—each new discovery holds the promise that, this time, things will be considerably different.

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Peter C. Newman

Bre-X and the dark side of capitalism

Whether Canada is consumed as a society it's almost always in terms of its identity crisis, bilingual dilemma, or agonies as a nation being trampled by the elephant next door. Yet what we really are is a capitalist society, run by a cluster of unloving elites.

The vaulting legacy of the Bre-X catastrophe remains as one of capitalism's dark side. According to the investors who inhabit most corporate boardrooms, high risk is supposed to carry high rewards. Instead, a lesson was that the greater an entrepreneur's ego-driven extravaganza, the greater the chance of failure.

It's not the first time. No one better epitomized the unrestrained corporate takeover frenzy of the 1980s than Robert Campeau, the dictator of Seabury. Out, home builder who wanted more than \$10 billion out of mostly American banks to fund his dream of taking over two of the largest American department store chains. Having borrowed that astronomical sum on a split and a promise, Campeau then floated high-risk junk bonds to try and repay the money. In the end, he swallowed more than he could chew, and in early 1990 his U.S. empire crumbled into the largest junk-rapacity in American retailing history—an opponent to Eaton's, which may soon qualify for the Canadian jacket as that failed bet.

Commenting on the decade's merger mania and the Campeau debacle, *Forbes* magazine noted in June, 1990: "Thus, in the age of excess and greed, with Robert Campeau as the catalyst and also the symbol of excess carried to its death throes."

What Campeau and Bre-X president David Walsh have in common is that at their corporate antics they were tragically even candidly, out of their depths. Even if every boast that Walsh and his executives have made since Bre-X first caught the mining world's attention eventually turns out to be true, his cocky and unrepentant style of managing must still deserve to be condemned.

The dark moments of Bre-X's folly are most obvious in the increasingly revealing coverage of the company's vice-president of exploration, John Fetherolf. On Feb. 19, only a month before his chief geologist apparently jumped to his death from a helicopter, and 41 days before Bre-X crashed and burned on the stock markets because of contradictory assaying results, Fetherolf predicted that the ore body he helped find contained 200 million ounces of pure gold, almost triple his earlier estimate. If his figures are correct, that would translate into \$100 billion worth of gold in the ground. (Ferguson-McMullen of New Orleans, with 35.5 million ounces, has the largest open pit gold reserves in the world.)

Until David Walsh looked up Indonesia in his home atlas, Bre-X

was poor average corporate stock. At one time, its shares sold for a little as two cents each, which is about what they were worth. Walsh spent a decade in the lower-echelon bucket shops that then characterized the Alberta Stock Exchange. Bre-X didn't start to climb until 1995, when it hit \$5. A year later, it was worth \$150, and shortly after that the company reached a market value of \$6 billion.

No wonder the class action filed by a Houston law firm on behalf of Bre-X shareholders accuses the Calgary company of possibly having perpetrated "a multi-billion-dollar fraud." An independent assay house hired by Bre-X itself reported that the company's reserve estimate had been "overstated due to invalid samples and the assaying of those samples."

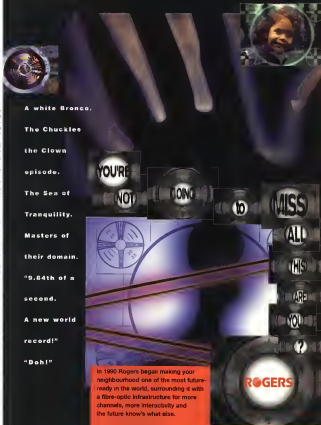
If it turns out that the drill cores were tampered with and that the Bre-X executives were involved, then they can hardly count themselves pioneers. Mining scams are a tried-and-true Canadian custom. Such notorious high flyers as Waskett, Cartmory and Turbideau led the way. Apart from the billion-lost by innocent investors who depended on the vigilance of securities regulators to keep stock exchange members honest, there is a bigger issue at play here. In the past decade, Canada has become known for its expertise in finding and financing new mines. Many operating mines owe their existence to Canadian dollars and know-how. Since it's business that operates on trust, our reputation as mine finders and developers is now in the sewer. "It's over," a leading financial house executive told me pleading anonymity.

Trust—or rather, the breach of it—also figures largely in so many investors following the recommendations of their brokers. Such trading houses as Nesbitt Burns and Gordon

Capital were still recommending Bre-X only days before its disastrous tumble. Their customers responded by spending \$400 million on the doomed stock. That's unacceptable, because reputable investment firms are committed to pushing shares only of companies whose assets have undergone due diligence. Accepting the word of an exploration outfit that has yet to dig a single shovel of dirt from an hypothetical mountain of gold just doesn't work. Canada's multi-billion-dollar investment industry has also been dealt a severe blow to its precarious credibility. Only hours before Bre-X went into the dumpster, Equus Bancroft, one of the resident sages at Nesbitt Burns, officially predicted his favorite mining stock would go from its then value of \$15 to \$29 per share. "The gold is there," he wrote. "We continue to recommend purchase."

The Bre-X specter will continue to haunt those lucky enough it to have been enticed into buying the stock—or those who sold out while there was still time. That never again, or at least until the next time, will we trust geologists and brokers peddling mountains of gold on fantasy islands.

A leap from a helicopter and questionable assay results have destroyed Canada's mining reputation



In 1995 Rogers began making your neighbourhood one of the most future-ready in the world, surrounding it with a fibre-optic infrastructure for more channels, more interactivity and the future know's what else.

They sit around a table perched into a corner at a downtown Toronto bar, five grand, wisecracking young people with big glasses of beer and the long night ahead. They do not look like smokers, although three of the five clearly are—they are smoking cigarettes. For this is the second month in the beleaguered life of a city beset by fines of up to \$5,000 to stamp out smoking in bars and restaurants. It could well be the hardest urban antismoking pressure on the continent anywhere in the world. But it is plainly not working. While the law has been applauded by antismoking groups, elsewhere it has spawned a wall of opposition and widespread civil disobedience. Thousands of leery Toronto bar and restaurant owners claim it is costing them money and will put some of them out of business. Non smokers complain that police have been less than aggressive in enforcing Bylaw No. 2560-0485—and that in some cases it has made the air even more foul. The tourist industry

COVER

BY RAE CORELLI

Now the smokers, complaining justly to a tough anti-smoking law, are on the ropes. North American cities, having for the most part cleared the air in hospitals, public transit and office buildings, have laid siege to the smokers' domain—bars and restaurants. In Canada, Vancouver became the first big city to try to root smokers out of the places where people eat and drink. The city declared restaurants smoke-free last May 31, but gave the bar owners three years to follow suit. The food and beverage industry, charging that the law gave bars an unfair advantage over restaurants, promptly responded by taking the city to court, effectively neutralizing the law until the judge rules. "We're kind of harassed," admitted the Vancouver Health Board's Nick Lento. Then on March 3, Toronto weighed in with its draconian bylaws, ordering all bars and restaurants to be smoke-free unless they provide a fully enclosed, separately ventilated smoking area—a facility costing anywhere from \$15,000 to \$60,000 to build. Non smokers celebrated, but their elation may have been premature. While major



McFawa (foreground) and friends' opportunities to light up legally indoors are diminishing.

THE NEW OUTLAWS

wonders how the smoking taken toll back home by this year's end of 1996, conversion delegates will attract tourists back home. Millions of defiant diners and drinkers, refusing to be told how to behave, continue to light up—like the four at the downtown bar. "It's quite simple," says one there, Javed McFawa. "When I drink, I have to have a cigarette." Adds a friend, Charles Beece. "There's no real threat—so I smoke."

That defiance, reminiscent of the drinker's antagonism toward Prohibition, has become commonplace not only in Toronto but among the nearly seven million Canadians wedded to the weed. The opportunities to light up indoors—in Canada, the United States, Western Europe and beyond—are rapidly diminishing. Lobbied aggressively by the public health sector and a non-smokers' rights organizations, legislators from Hawaii to Belgium and Beijing are tightening the screws, with varying degrees of success, on tobacco use, labeling, advertising and marketing.

And in numerous courtrooms, mostly in the United States, gay restaurants and private citizens are demanding that the \$170-billion-a-year tobacco industry be punished and held accountable for smoking-related deaths, illnesses and healthcare costs. Those cases may become easier to win following the blockbuster admission last month by the largest cigar line, the El Estanco, N.C.-based cigar maker, that smoking in both additive and anticancer-causing. Lagotto, maker of the Chastellat, Lark and LaB brands, also agreed to put specific warning labels on its packs—on Canadian cigarettes have been compelled to do since 1988—and to pay millions of dollars in compensation for health-care costs to 22 states. Last week, Lagotto further embarrassed the industry by releasing previously confidential documents about marketing strategies and the effects of nicotine. (page 10)



A Toronto lawyer (left) explains the new rules to a restaurant civil disobedience.

downtown hotels, such as the venerable Royal York, family-oriented chains (Ottawa's and Montreal) and busy tourist locations (the CN Tower) have evaded the ban (or already had one of their own), hundreds of bistros and eating places have not. To fulfil their obligation to the law, proprietors only have to tell patrons that smoking is illegal. And with only two dozen so-called smoker police fully devoted to the task, the city does not have the manpower to monitor 4,500 food-service establishments.

To University of Toronto social philosopher Frank Cunningham, the scale of the smokers' revolt was mysterious. "What's going on here is that people simply don't buy this law," he says. "There is a hint on how far you can force people to do something they don't want to do." But to a lot of bar and restaurant owners, the issue is less personal than economic. "I got a customer who spends \$12,000 a year on Guinness and he smokes 20 cigarettes a night," says one North Toronto pub owner. "You think I'm not going to give him an smoking?" At Le Pignon restaurant, owner Paul Bague says business is down about 20 per cent even though he serves smokers. "A lot of places are hanging on by their fingernails," he says. Peter Costa, the owner of Pivato, a multi-level high-end restaurant, says he has difficulty keeping the smokers and non-smokers happy on busy weekends. "For many restaurants in this town," he says, "it's either break the law or go bankrupt."

Vancouver, the bylaw is making things worse for some non-smokers. There are no longer specified nonsmoking areas, so there were before March 3, so lawbreakers prepared to risk getting a ticket are free to puff virtually everywhere. "It's ridiculous, just ridiculous," says

Defiant smokers tell government to butt out

Debbie Lathwood, a bartender at Gardeners Tavern across from Maple Leaf Gardens. "Nobody wins." A customer at a nearby stool is equally indignant. "Fifty-fifty," he says, voice slurred. "They'll have a bylaw against holding weed." At nearly 7 PM, Toronto, a man at the bar is sarcastic. "It's the little politically correct stuff," he says. "It's the thing of the Nineties, man." The ordinance has little or no impact on Danny Smoother's bistro and sports bar on west-end Bloor Street. The boundary between the suburban city of York (smoking) and Toronto (non-

smoking) slices through Danny's place. But Smoother, who has made the Toronto part of his premises the nonsmoking area, dislikes the law on principle. "I don't like to be told what to do," he says.

But some others, including the rich and famous, willingly toe the line. Actor Dean Cain, said of the new law, declared to friends with her customary ciao at the gitty opening in early March of Toronto's Planet Hollywood, the restaurant chain of which she is part owner with Arnold Schwarzenegger and others. When the entrepreneurial celebrities got to Vancouver, it was a different story. At the glittering first night of the West Coast's Planet Hollywood later in March, Schwarzenegger answered from the invitation-only crowd pulling on a cigar. "Two people complained to the city after watching the event on TV, but the health board's Lento and Schwarzenegger would not be charged. "It's a little bit silly," said Lento. "There are smokers at both ends of the spectrum."

Tobacco's friends and enemies have been skirmishing ever since Spanish and Portuguese vessels returning from the New World

ELBOWS FLY IN SMOKING WARS

BY BARRY CAHANE

On a rainy afternoon, especially when there is a wistful lull in the air, he can be found at the outdoor rink in downtown Toronto's Bloorcourt Park. It's the hockey that draws him, those pickup games that occur when enough willing bodies gather after work to relax by chasing a puck around the ice. The rink's regulars know him well, as much for his scrappy style of play as for his distinctive grey hair and beard to go with it. For on the ice, just as in his more public office persona, Garfield Mahood tends to work hard.

"I do enjoy the rough stuff," he confesses with an smug grin. "I like the play along the boards and around the net. And I just love charging into the corners, elbows flying, at the last push."

Mahood has been working the corners all his life. His entire career, in fact, has been built upon the no-holds-barred approach that serves him so well on the hockey rink. And for much of the past two decades, his elbows have been flying in the line of the tobacco industry, both in Canada and abroad. As the long-serving executive director of the Toronto-based *non-smokers' Rights Association*, the 55-year-old has been in the fray forefront of virtually every major battle to restrict the sale, use and promotion of tobacco products in Canada. He is largely responsible for those high-profile court cases warning that new cigarette every cigarette pack sold in this country, as well as in places as far-flung as Australia, Thailand and South Africa. He has played a role in forcing tobacco ad out of the print media and off the airwaves. He has helped to banish smoking from Canadian airlines, federal and Ontario government buildings, and most recently, Toronto bars and restaurants. Mahood can even claim at least some of the credit for the proposed new federal legislation, now awaiting Senate approval, that would, among other measures, severely curtail tobacco-company sponsorship of cultural and sporting events.

If there is any sense to this long string of adversities, Mahood brings no sign of it as he sits in his cluttered office at what used to be the offices of the NSRA's offices, just a few blocks west of the Bloorcourt Park rink. "Satisfied?" he asks, incredulously. "How can I be satisfied when I'm under attack?" Wearing to the subject, he leans forward. "I'm portrayed as a zealot, a fanatic, a puke. I don't know what else," he complains. "On top of that, there's a deliberate information campaign under way designed to impugn my integrity and that of many of my colleagues, not to mention dismantle our financing." He levels a finger. "It's like you, there are a lot of people out there who want to put us right out of business."

Not everyone, it seems, is a fan. While Mahood's endeavors may have won him many plaudits, not least a gold medal from the World Health Organization and a "citizen of merit" from the Canadian Cancer Society, they have also earned the enmity of some powerful adversaries. He is currently engaged in a running feud with *The Globe and Mail*, having twice launched libel actions against the Toronto newspaper. In January, the *Globe* settled one with an undisclosed cash payment and a printed apology for suggesting, in a column

by writer Terence Conner, that Mahood's right hand man, NSRA legal counsel David Swenson, knowingly misstated facts about smoking deaths. Then, in February, Mahood again declared his intention to sue the *Globe*, this time over a column story and another Conner column, both dealing with an internal NSRA discussion paper the

Garfield Mahood makes no apologies for his aggressive tactics against Big Tobacco



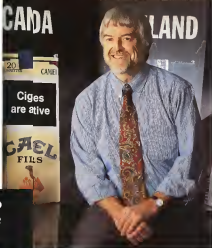
Globe had somehow obtained. It proceeded to detail in NSRA plan to publicly ridicule, embarrass and otherwise undermine the credibility of its anti-industry critics of the organization, including the *Globe*. Liberal MP John Bryden and Marie-France Lapointe, official spokeswoman for the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council.

Mahood does not deny anything the document in question, but he dismisses it as an important, merely a brainstorming list of ideas aimed at stimulating discussion among the staff. He does, however, see darker motives at work in the entire affair. "Maybe it's payback for the earlier line

work," he rames, before asserting, "I do know that the paper's editorial policy under [editor-in-chief] Wilfred Thorsell has amounted to nothing more than support for the tobacco industry."

Mahood places Bloorcourt Park's MP Bryden as an even more malicious category. "That guy, unwittingly or not, is simply doing the dirty work for the tobacco lobby," he charges, alluding to Bryden's ongoing campaign to strip advocacy groups like the NSRA of federal funding and charitable status. Mahood makes no attempt to downplay the critical importance of federal funding to the NSRA and its subsidiary registered charity, the Smoking and Health Action Foundation. In the 1996-1997 fiscal year, Health Canada allocated \$550,000 to the NSRA to support the organization's research, monitoring and educational programs, that amounts to more than half of the NSRA's \$1 million budget for the same year. "Deprive us of those funds and you would see badly, perhaps fatally," says Mahood.

He argues that the money is well spent. The NSRA has just nine staff members, and his own annual salary of \$86,725 is not particularly exorbitant by executive standards. More to the point, the NSRA is, according to Mahood, a cost-effective way of keeping health-care spending down because it "stops potential tobacco victims out of the health-care system." In support of that contention, it mentions Health Canada's alarming prediction of three million tobacco-related deaths from the current Canadian population, most of whom will die prematurely after either lung—very—and expensive—medical care. "Imagine the enormous



financial impact if say a fifth of them helped living out even a tiny portion of religious."

Mahood's critics do not debate that particular point. But people like Bryden are more than eager to incite the NSRA executive director's operation and his methods. "The Garfield Mahoods of this world have been getting a free ride for a long, long time," maintains the Liberal MP, a former financial journalist. "They've benefited from an enormous mercenary-owned, vertically-bureaucratic, hard-advocacy apparatus to provide jobs for people who will tell the bureaucrats what they want to hear." Bryden objects to what he claims has been a lack of accountability from organizations like the NSRA. And he takes strong issue with Mahood's trademarked tactics. "He fights dirty," says Bryden. "He's asked for that. It's a way of politicians are used to win."

Whether the merits of Bryden's argument, it is true that Mahood can look at himself as a biased. He was once candidly described by *Initiate*, a research arm of the international tobacco industry, as "the most formidable" individual threat to the tobacco industry in the world. Another industry publication, the U.S. magazine *Tobacco Reporter*, termed the NSRA "one of the fiercest" anti-tobacco forces anywhere. Mahood makes no apologies for his confrontational behavior or his sometimes-personal attacks on opponents. "Typical quality," he says. "But you've got to remember that I'm up against a very nasty industry, one with a well-deserved international reputation for lying and deceit."

There are some troubling figures, in fact, who will argue that Mahood's strenuous methods are precisely what has been required. "This is a kind of industry of Garfield Mahood," says Australian Dr. Nigel Gray, president of the Geneva-based International Union Against Cancer. "I've always thought that the most effective way to win the war against tobacco was to personalize it, go right after individual tobacco executives and lobbyists. Unfortunately, that can sometimes get unpleasant. It takes a special kind of person to do that, and Gar has done a very good job."

Bryden thinks he's become like his dad in a lifetime to perfect his technique. Mahood has always been an activist by technique, a leader even. The talent first appeared during his school days in Bloorcourt, Ont., where he organized a wildly successful series of environmental basketball tournaments. It was then again in Toronto. Prodding the *Academy of Management* to support a young wife and infant son, he was awarded for his sales. But Mahood did not have any such family life when he was a young man of Toronto student at the time, took him to an anti-Vietnam War rally in 1965. "That was my personal road to Marxism," Mahood recalls. "I was a jack at the time with a lot of night-time ideas. I'd brought into the whole Vietnam thing. But after that rally, I began to look at things a little differently."

He was soon back in school, studying political science and sociology at York University in Toronto. Upon graduation, he spent three years as executive director of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, then discovered the cause that would occupy him for the rest of his life. In 1974, he helped naming instructor Rosalind Boffin start up the NSRA. The following year, he took over an executive director, a post he has held ever since. On a personal level, the road has been a little more rocky, including two failed marriages. But he has managed to achieve a measure of domestic bliss in recent years, settling into an attractive townhouse with his companion for the past decade, Helen Whitney. The house is not much more than a double-story from the Bloorcourt Park. These and weather permitting, that has allowed Mahood to keep cheering heading into those rough-and-tumble corners he likes so much. □

FEELING THE HEAT

COVER

The industry goes on the defensive as pressure builds



Reynolds: fighting an escalating battle with government

Senate cigarette hearings are rare by occasion for fireworks. But sparks flew last week when Bob Parker, president of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council, spoke in Ottawa before a Senate panel considering Bill C-73—a new legislation that would tightly restrict cigarette advertising and tobacco company sponsorship of arts and sporting events. Parker, whose organization represents Canadian cigarette makers, openly questioned any link between advertising and smoking—and Liberal senators expressed their disbelief to no uncertain terms. "Everyone here, the whole audience, understands that you folks are advertising," declared Senator Colin Kenny. "And in the process of doing it, you're picking up young people who are buying your product, who are ultimately going to die sooner than they should—because your product will kill them."

These words. But they were just one salvo in an escalating war between governments and tobacco companies—a war being waged not only in Canada, but also in the United States. There, the all-mission, left-leaning by cigarette-maker Liggett Group Inc. that U.S. tobacco companies had known for years about nicotine's addictive and lethal effects, and had specifically targeted young people in their advertising, has rocked the industry. The release last week of some of the company's previously confidential documents only made things worse for the U.S. tobacco giants who are fighting multimillion-dollar law suits from 22 states. In Canada, the senators took the industry's spokesmen to task over everything from advertising to the addiction question. Marc-Joseph Lapensee, communications director for the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council, summed up the mood. "Thrashing the tobacco industry," he said, "has become a national sport."

Antismoking lobbyists in both countries have raised the volume in the just few weeks, but the Liggett revelations are a large part of the reason. Liggett—the smallest of the big five U.S. tobacco companies, which include Philip Morris, R. J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson and American Tobacco—lanke made and settled its fight with the states, which are seeking to recoup health-care costs resulting from smoking. Liggett agreed to give the states one-quarter of its pretax profits for the next 35 years, and to begin labeling its cigarettes as addictive. But even more troubling for the industry were Liggett's promises to make its employees available to testify at the continuing court cases against the other tobacco companies, and to release thousands of sensitive company documents

Those revelations began last week, as Arizona attorney general Grant Woods released a slew of Liggett papers that clearly laid the industry on its side. The documents paint a picture of a manipulative corporate ethos. A 1985 consultant's report for Liggett identifies the ages of 35 to 21 as "the formative years [when] smoking starts and brand preferences are developed." Another report talks about the need for "a racial slant in the marketing efforts" directed towards blacks, Hispanics and Jews.

In Canada, tobacco companies confronted another potentially damaging revelation. CTV news reported that Imperial Tobacco Ltd.—Canada's largest cigarette maker—took part in meetings of the international conference of British-American Tobacco, or BAT, in the late 1980s and early 1990s. There, CTV reported, representatives from around the world discussed developing a high-nicotine, low-tar tobacco called Y 1 and using an acronym to boost nicotine levels. Imperial spokesman last week acknowledged the meetings but denied ever using either technology. In fact, minutes of a BAT meeting from May, 1990, state that "Imperial were just joining other lines of development and were not using Y 1," and that letters with a nicotine resistance "had not been found to give a noticeable improvement."

In the months to come, Canadian tobacco companies may even, like their U.S. counterparts, have to answer their role in court. In Toronto, four smokers with various maladies—David Caputo, 35 (lung cancer), Lynn Smith, 47 (chronic loss of breath and smoking cough), Lon Carwardine, 57 (emphysema), and Russel Hykile, 54 (emphysema, asthma and heart disease)—have applied to launch a class-action suit against tobacco companies. The four plaintiffs, claiming they are addicted to nicotine, are seeking \$1 million each.

The suits have not yet decided whether the case, filed in 1992, meets Ontario's stringent requirements for a class-action suit. But if it goes to court, says Andreas Seibert, one of the plaintiffs' lawyers, Liggett's dramatic capitulation can only help. "That is the first time a tobacco company has publicly stated that its products are harmful," said Seibert. "Having somebody from Liggett on the stand in a court case, either in the United States or in Canada, and having that person allege the industry has targeted teenagers—that would be very dramatic testimony." And it would no doubt light the fuse for yet another explosion in the tobacco war.

JOE CHIDLEY



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BY JAMES DEACON

Tiger Woods did not look like a legend—the crinkling when he arrived at a pro-am tournament in Orlando, Fla., last month. He looked like any other 23-year-old showing up for work before 8 a.m.—drowsy and a little disoriented. Wiping the sleep from his eyes and stifling a yawn, he introduced himself to the four grey-haired businessmen who were his playing partners in the four-round event, and he gave his hand a little wobble as he shook the quipster lined up for a group portrait on the first tee. But Woods knows the celebrity drill. At the sound of “hey, cawee,” he flashed the megawatt smile that has graced so many magazine covers in the past few months. And he acknowledged the swelling crowd with a wave before stepping up to hit his drive. Then, the slender ascot-wearer unleashed a scorching 3-wood that easily cleared the trees guarding the corner of the dogleg and landed in the heavy 205 yards away. The crowd roared. “I just love to watch him swing the club,” gushed Peter Lee, a self-proclaimed golf nut from White Plains, N.Y., who was among the adoring in the gallery. “That kid is something special.”

A person would have to have lived inside a moth-eaten box for the past eight months to not have heard of Tiger Woods. Since forging his first

Woods at 18: He's a rising star in golf



Ready to roar in Augusta

two years of college to turn a pro last August, the Cypress, Calif., native has already been the subject of four books, to signed endorsement deals with golf equipment and apparel companies worth \$80 million, to been featured not only in golf's Great Black Hope, but—in his father's—a transcendental figure who will do nothing less than change the world. The Woods story has even dominated the hype leading up to this week's vaunted Masters, as if he is already being fitted for the green jacket that goes to the winner. CBS, the network televising the event, is using its one-hour Masters (and round preview) to do a profile on him.

It is difficult to believe that a 23-year-old who has played less than a year of professional golf could possibly command such attention. But Woods did not happen overnight. He was golf's Shirley Temple, a child star who at the age of 3 demonstrated his uncanny knack for hitting a ball on TV's *Mike Douglas Show*. His was not a sudden success: At 15, he became the youngest-ever U.S. junior champion, at 18, he played his first PGA Tour event, the Sprint Los Angeles Open, and at 18, he became the youngest-ever U.S. amateur champion, leading opponents twice his age. Last summer, after winning his third straight U.S. amateur—another record—he opted to play for pay and won three of the first nine PGA Tour

events he entered. No one—not Arnold Palmer, not Jack Nicklaus—ever dominated so soon after turning pro.

Conspiring golf is just the beginning for Woods, at least according to his father, Earl Woods, a 64-year-old former insurance corps lieutenant-colonel, systematically set out to turn his toddler into the lord of the links, coaching young Tiger at handling every thing from bunker shots to media berrages. Now, he boldly predicts his son will do more than any rise in history—more than, say, Mahatma Gandhi or Nelson Mandela—to change the course of humanity. That grandiose claim is based not only on Tiger's golf prowess but also on his ethnicity—his father is African-American, his mother, Kiyoko, is Thai—which Earl claims gives him a global appeal. “The world will be a better place to live in because of his presence,” Woods Sr. said in an emotional speech at

a banquet honoring his son at America's top-ranking golf in 1996. The prominent himself deflects questions about his father's vision: “My job is to play golf,” he will say. On the golf course, it is apparent Woods has already changed the face of some galleries. Tourists where he has played report huge increases in attendance over previous years, particularly among amateurs. Woods has taken an active hand in that, inviting thousands of kids from inner-city neighborhoods to clinics at Tour sites. The Tiger Woods Foundation, which held its first-ever clinic at Disney World prior to the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando, is devoted to helping underprivileged kids who might otherwise only see a golf course through a classroom fence. “This is my way to help provide opportunities for them to play a sport they can play for their entire lives,” he said at Bay Hill. “You can learn a lot about life from golf, and to me that's very important.”

Like the shoe and apparel company that hired Woods in a four-year, \$4.6 million (U.S.) endorsement deal, he traded heavily on his multicultural background to extend the firm's marketing reach to previously underserved golf markets among minorities and in the Third World. One ad has Tiger talking about the fact that many comes as Americans but has been playing because of his skin color. But skeptics say minorities are held back by more than private-club discrimination; the fact is, golf equipment and greens remain simply too expensive for most inner-city kids. “People are thinking that he's going to change who's going to start playing golf,” says Robert Garcia, an eight-year Tour veteran. “I think that's wrong.”

Woods can certainly attract a crowd. (Left)

Norman (right): Woods at Orlando clinic; you can learn a lot about life from golf



three years ago, few fans ever knew or cared who was playing the U.S. amateur, yet TV coverage of the 20-hole final last year is what Tiger came back from a five-hole deficit to win, gained a higher rating than the PGA Tour event being aired that same week. As a pro, he gave the stodgy old Tour air with kids who were their fans' heroes. Tour insiders in fact expect themselves trying to get Woods to commit to their events. In top respect, Woods is not a pioneer in the mold of Charlie Sifford, who broke the color barrier in the late 1950s and forced the PGA Tour to finally let its “Caucasian” clinics in 1991. Instead, Woods has spent in common with Arnold Palmer, who in the '50s and '60s, introduced an entirely new audience to golf. “Back then it was more of an elitist sport and with the help of television, Arnold reached out to the middle class,” says Alastair Johnson, Palmer's manager. “Tiger is taking that even further.”

The weight of expectations might surface where his age, but college buddy Jerry Chang says Woods will find time to unwind with close friends. “I know he misses college, misses the opportunities to stay up late drinking beer and not hanging out,” Chang says. “But he loves to play golf—absolutely loves it.” Because of his celebrity, however, Woods cannot go out to dinner or a club without being accosted by autograph hounds. “I can't do a lot of things that normal people do,” he says. “But then, I realize to do a lot more things that a lot of 23-year-olds can't do.” Is that a fair trade-off?

“It's not bad, but then again, it could be better. Could be worse, too.” Woods was clearly upset last month by another piece of fame—a cover story in the April issue of *GQ* magazine that was critical of his father and quoted Tiger making all-color jokes. He released a statement condemning “the motives of certain ambitious writers,” and added: “Thanks to the magazine and the writer for teaching me a lesson.”

For all the Woods hype, the media has not forgotten last year's Masters snafu—the inexplicable collapse of Greg Norman during the final round. Ranked No. 1 in the world, the Aussie squandered a sub-optimal lead in the last stages; he coasts more than any other, losing out to Langston (real Mel) Pate. This year, Woods will bear the pressure of the historic role, despite the fact that his best finish in two previous Masters appearances was a tie for 41st in 1996. The longest driver on Tour and a deft putter, he ascribes past shortcomings at Augusta to the fact that he was still attending Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., and could not fully concentrate on golf. The past few months, he has done little else but prepare for the Masters. “I have to keep playing, keep getting my game ready,” he said last month at Bay Hill. “So that when I get to Augusta, hopefully it will be there—right at its peak.”

The straightedge of life will tug at Woods this week, but he is not drinking. “I have an incredible burning desire to win,” says Tour veteran Mark O'Meara. “Two years from now, I don't know if that will be the same or not. Time will tell.” O'Meara's unspoken question is that, by then, Woods may be burned out. On the other hand, he may just have changed the world. Time will tell that, too. □

Who should pay for ESL?

The backlash over teaching immigrants English

BY VICTOR DWYER

Noticed in a working-class neighborhood in Vancouver's east end, the tidy, two-story schoolhouse looks more like a family home than a school. Second-floor classroom of teacher Steve Dunbar, it is clear that Lord Beconsfield Elementary is working hard to keep up with the multichannel 1990s. A bulletin board festooned with red dinosaurs and yellow and blue laminated letters displays on the Chinese New Year. Seated in front of it are 14 students, all learning English as a second language, quietly waiting each other's spelling. At the front of the classroom, Dunbar gently reaches a simple textbook with three other students—who know a word or two in English at all. In a city that absorbed 45,000 new immigrants last year, the vast majority from Asia, Dunbar's classroom is far from unique. Throughout Vancouver, a staggering 57 per cent of schoolchildren speak a language other than English at home. "When the majority of your students have English as a second language, it changes the fundamental nature of the school system," says Hugh Haggart, district principal for ESL, which is the Vancouver School Board. "We are challenged at every level."

As immigration transforms the face of British Columbia, the vast waves of new Canadians are putting intense pressure on public education. And at a time when many schools face cutbacks, there is growing anger and resentment that English-speaking children are suffering as ESL programs demand a growing piece of a shrinking pie—amounts that many who have made a career choice. Meanwhile, the escalating cost of ESL programs is provoking a wave of words between federal politicians—who control immigration—and those who want Ottawa to cough up a larger portion of the

cost of teaching English to newcomers. "This is a huge issue," says Carole James, president of the B.C. School Trustees' Association. "Virtually every school is feeling the pressure, and I worry there is a major backsliding."

The numbers alone tell a dramatic story. With barely 12 per cent of the Canadian population, British Columbia absorbed 23 per cent of newcomers in Canada last year—80 per cent of those from Asia. More than 4,000 new ESL students flooded into B.C. schools—an increase of almost seven per cent over 1986. Over the past decade, that figure has soared a remarkable 334 per cent.

And it is not only inner-city schools that are being transformed. While the proportion of children enrolled in ESL programs in Vancouver approached 50 per cent last fall, other

nearby districts are quickly playing catch-up. Enrolment in Richmond jumped from 228 students in 1987 to more than 10,000 last year and now hovers at roughly 46 per cent. District of British Columbia, only Toronto schools come close to matching those figures. There, such students account for just under one-quarter of all schoolchildren, a figure that has held steady since 1986 and actually dropped slightly last fall.

But while the numbers in Ontario are sky rocketing, the sharp, steady increases in British Columbia are quickly transforming the issue of ESL into a lightning rod for frustrated parents and teachers. In late February, temper tantrums rose a notch when Education Minister Paul Ramsey unveiled what many critics describe as a cash grab from English-speaking students. In a one-two punch, Ramsey cut general school board budgets for the coming year by \$27 million—only to foot up ESL spending by roughly \$1 million. "Making sure immigrants become well integrated into B.C. life depends on ensuring that children we will integrate into schools," says Ramsey. "Placing a priority on ESL is critical to acceptance."

While few question the need to fund ESL programs, many are fatigued that doing so may shortchange other kids. Late last month, the parent advisory committee at Coyote Creek Elementary School in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey pulled the axle in a formal resolution, it demanded that the B.C. Parent Council petition Ramsey to request that all children be able to speak either

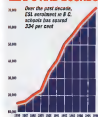
English or French before being enrolled in school. "Parents all grumble there is not enough money for the basics," says committee volunteer Tanya Rowlands, who notes that Coyote Creek parents conducted a dramatic campaign last year to raise \$47,000 for such things as library books and computers. "It just isn't right there is all this extra money for ESL."

Still, even if the provincial council agrees to petition the minister, it is highly unlikely he will give them a warm response. "I find the argument that immigrants should pay for ESL a strange one," says Ramsey. "For years, this province has provided English training for new immigrants, whether from Germany or Ukraine or Italy. Surely the same applies to immigrants from Asia—a population that is useful in many European areas we're not." But Rowlands remains determined—and defiant in the face of any suggestion that the wisdom of the council is suspect. "I'm tired of this being called a moral issue," says Rowlands. "It's a financial issue."

However divided, those on all sides agree on one thing: Ottawa should begin to take greater responsibility for the high cost of teaching ESL. "We have these children longer than any other jurisdiction—they are with us six hours a day," notes Vancouver principal Boudier. "But while the federal government funds all sorts of programs to support settlement, youth, by and large, are left out of the picture."

Many saw a glimmer of hope last month when federal minister for immigration and

LEAPS AND BOUNDS



citizenship, Lucienne Robitaille, announced \$60 million in new money to aid immigrant settlement over the next three years—the lion's share earmarked for British Columbia and Ontario. But it now appears almost certain that such hopes will be dashed. The new money, insists Robitaille, may be directed to such programs as employment training and adult education—but not public schools.

"We realize the impact of immigration on the school system," Robitaille told Maritime's "But education is a provincial responsibility—and so is the teaching of ESL. This is

the case now, and will be in the future."

Faced with that reality, Ramsey will likely have little choice but to continue shifting money into ESL programs—or at least to white-wash actual dollars into it themselves. Last year the Vancouver board quietly spent \$5.5 million out of general spending and into ESL programs. One reason for the province's 1985 per-student ESL spend exceeded only the cost of language assessment and in-class instruction. But like many urban boards in British Columbia and elsewhere, Vancouver has begun to invest in a range of related programs, including one in which 28 staff try to build stronger links between immigrant parents and teachers. "ESL is much more than teaching English," says teacher Dunbar. "You're dealing with kids whose families have been totally uprooted."

In Ontario, where high rates of immigration have long been a fact of life, many parents fear it is just such programs that will come under the knife. The government of Premier Mike Harris has said it would like to centralize education spending—slicing it out of the hands of local municipalities. And there have been persistent rumors that Education Minister John Snobelen may also up to \$1 billion from the 1991-92 system over the next year.

The cashed result, says prefect, will be reduced funding for ESL programs in such cities as Toronto and Ottawa. Teachers in those boards have traditionally tapped into a hefty local tax base to meet the special needs of new Canadians, as well as the troubled children and their families. That scenario frightens parents like Anne Koller, whose daughters Kate and Molly attend Palmerston Avenue Public School in downtown Toronto. "Underfunding ESL is the last thing you want to do," says Koller. "Children who need help learning English are a fact of life. When the money isn't there, it causes teaching properly, those kids suffer, my kids suffer, and the entire school suffers."

And, says many observers, society suffers as well. "If we don't provide support to these children, the expense will come up to other groups," says Haggart. "They can end up dropping out, and it can cost lots of money through social services to support them for them." No matter how contentious the issue—or intense the emotions a color—many agree it is time to stop pointing fingers. "Canadians have to sit down and select this problem together," says Donna Campbell, executive director of the Canadian School Boards' Association. "It's not an individual problem, it's not a provincial problem, it's not a municipal problem. It is everybody's problem." And one whose solution is long overdue.

FOR SCOTT STEELE in Vancouver

Breast cancer and the fat connection

In a study published two years ago, Canadian researchers reported that women with large amounts of dense, fibrous tissue in their breasts stood a greater chance of contracting breast cancer than women with less dense breasts. The team, led by Toronto gynaecologist Dr. Norman Boyd,

found women more likely to get breast cancer than women who had little or no fibrous breast tissue. In the new study, published in the April issue of the U.S. *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, women in one group whose daily fat consumption averaged less than a third of their total caloric intake (compared with the 35 to 40 per cent consumed by many Canadians) experienced a two per cent reduction in breast density. And women in the other group, who reduced their daily fat consumption even more, to 21 per cent of caloric intake, registered an average six per cent decrease.

Despite that promising result, there is no proof yet that a reduction in breast density can save lives. "What remains to be seen," said Boyd, vice-president of preventive oncology at the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, "is whether modifying breast density will actually reduce the number of cancers that develop." That data will emerge over the next decade from a much larger 10-year study that Boyd is leading of the relationship between diet and breast cancer in about 4,500 Canadian women.

In another development in the fight against breast cancer, American medical investigators identified an enzyme that may play a key role in about 95 per cent of cases. In an article published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, researchers at the State University of New York at Stony Brook said that a study involving 30 women with the disease showed that cancerous cells in their breasts contained up to 20 times the amount of the enzyme—known as estrogen-activated protein kinase—found in normal breast tissue. Dr. Craig Milhollin, the vice-dean of SUNY's medical centre who headed the study, said that because the enzyme appears to drive the growth of breast cancers, it might be possible to design a drug that could halt a developing breast tumor in its tracks by obstructing cells to stop producing the enzyme.

The 1995 study by Boyd's team showed that women whose breasts had more than 50 per cent dense tissue were up to five

A scan shows a tumor (in red) that can inhibit breast density



Foreskin fallacies

When the non-religious circumcision of male babies became popular in the United States late in the 19th century, the underlying reasons included belief that the procedure promoted hygiene—and discouraged masturbation and unconventional sex. Now, a study by University of Chicago researchers challenges all of those ideas. After analyzing data from extensive surveys of American health and social life, the researchers concluded that removal of the foreskin provides no discernible hygienic benefit—and that circumcised men have a more varied sexual life than their uncircumcised brethren. According to the study, circumcised men were 40 per cent more likely to masturbate at least once a month, and 40 per cent more likely to engage in heterosexual intercourse. The authors observed that their findings "should further enrich" discussion.

Heart-attack risk

Elevated cholesterol levels and high blood pressure are well-established risk factors that can lead to heart attacks and strokes. Now, a study by American researchers suggests that there may be another important cause of heart attacks—chronic inflammation of blood vessel walls that may result from viral or bacterial infection. Scientists from the Harvard Medical School and three other institutions reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that blood samples of men who experienced heart attacks and strokes had higher levels of C-reactive protein—a substance known to signal inflammation—than those of men with no history of those conditions.

The new hot herb

Echinacea, selenium, zinc—North Americans are increasingly turning to natural remedies as an alternative to costly prescription drugs. Now emerging as the hot new herb, the curiously named *Sambucus nigra*, an extract of a flowering perennial plant called as a natural antidepressant and sleeping aid that can also ease nervous tension and the pain of neuralgia. Widely used in Europe, *Sambucus* was first begun catching on in Canada and the United States last year after a favorable report in *Hypericum perforatum*—the plant's scientific name—appeared in the *British Medical Journal*. "It's definitely top," says Michael Vertal, a Toronto herbalist. "It's probably the best therapeutic substance available for treating mild to medium depression."



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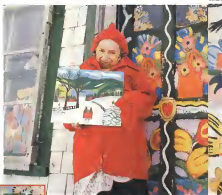
Joy in simple things

Nova Scotia pays tribute to an exuberant artist

BY BRIAN BERGMAN

Mae and Lewis loved a life that few would envy. Born in rural Nova Scotia in 1908, Lewis suffered from a series of birth defects that left her fingers partially deformed, her shoulders hunched and her chin pressed into her chest. She spent most of her adult life as a virtual recluse in a cramped one-room house that had no running water or electricity. For more than three decades, the diminutive Lewis eked out a living rendering colorful oil paintings on the most primitive of surfaces—including paraffined, cardboard and wallpaper—which she sold for a few dollars each. Her mostly husband, Everett, often squinted away her aimlessly, looking the cash under the floorboards or in jars buried in the garden. At the age of 93, Lewis—whose self-inflicted damage due to constant exposure to paint fumes and wood smoke—contracted pneumonia and died in hospital. She was buried in a child's coffin and laid to rest in a pauper's grave.

The tragic circumstances of Lewis's life do not, however, tell the whole story. Through paintings, Lewis expressed a sweet disposition and a smile that charmed everyone who visited her brightly decorated home in the village of Marshalltown, an Nova Scotia's northeast shore. More to the point, she left behind hundreds of exuberant paintings and artifacts that, since her death in 1970, have earned her into an icon of the so-called folk art movement—Canada's own Grandma Moses. About 200 of her works—playfully depicting cows, horse-drawn sleighs and other scenes of rural life—form the nucleus of an exhibition that begins an 18-month national tour after wrapping up a hugely successful 12-week run at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia on April 15 in her home



Lewis delivered and packed with paint, she turned her life into a celebration of color

province, the retrospective in part of a Macleod house that in the past year has spawned a book about her life and art, parents, Jack and Agnes Dowley. It was, says Woolner, "probably the last time she was truly happy."

Lewis received her first art lessons from her mother, who taught her to hand-paint Christmas cards, which she then sold to neighbors. She also learned how to play piano, a positive she enjoyed until her fingers became further mangled by arthritis. The physical deformities brought her some empathy; classmates teased her mercilessly, which may be one reason why she dropped out of school at 14, having completed only Grade 5. But it wasn't until both her parents died in the late 1930s that her life took a tragic turn. Her older brother, Charles,

that in no accident, according to Lewis Woolner, author of *The Unseen Life of Mae Lewis*, which was published recently by Westview—who grew up near the Lewis home in Marshalltown and whose father was one of the earliest local patrons—says that Lewis's paintings are, for the most part, a string of minor misadventures from the years she spent in Marshalltown County, 50 km north of Marshalltown, in the lower part of her parents, Jack and Agnes Dowley. It was, says Woolner, "probably the last time she was truly happy."

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claimed the family inheritance and made no provision for his only sibling. About the same time, Lewis bore a child out of wedlock. The baby girl was put up for adoption and never saw her natural mother again.

In 1948, the artist married Everett Lewis, a fish peddler, after moving to his old farm a housekeeper. She moved into Everett's fish cottage in Marshalltown and proceeded to paint every available surface—including the stove, washbasin and windowpanes—with brightly colored flowers, birds and butterflies. As it turned out, advancing arthritis prevented Lewis from keeping house. Instead, she spent each day perched on a chair beside the front window, which provided the only available light for painting as well as a glimpse of the outside world. Everett—whose sluggishness extended to removing the radio batteries so that Lewis couldn't hear them down by listening to music—arranged up most of her paint supplies, including leftover house and boat paints. She also lugged with customers—most of them passing tourists—over the price of her paintings, which never went for more than \$10 during her lifetime.

Lewis worked in relative obscurity until 1965, when she became the subject of a nationally broadcast CBC documentary. That same year, The Toronto Star Weekly published an article featuring photos by McIlwain and Bob Brooks. His review, however—the only professional shot of the Lewis—was called an essential part of both the travelling exhibit and Woolner's compelling biography. The publicity brought a flood of requests for Lewis's work during the last years of her life. Her most prominent customer, the Richard Nixon White House, which, through aide John Wadsworth, commissioned paintings. Uncompromised with—or unaware of—when she was dealing with, Lewis agreed to do the pieces as long as she was paid up front.

Following her death, several people, including the crafty Everett, produced forgeries of Lewis's work. In sifting through hundreds of potential candidates for the exhibit, Rorion rejected dozens of them as they failed. Still, at least two slipped through a pair of hand-painted sealing sheets that Rorion now believes to be the handwork of Everett, who outlived Lewis by two years.

Overseen by the highly mannered *Outstanding* crew on the decreed distance for her art sale, her death. These days, even a small Lewis original can sell for up to \$2,000 in Nova Scotia, a province that has a long history of producing creative, self-taught artists, she is already a legend. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia drew a record 15,000 visitors to the exhibit, and its first show has sold some \$100,000 worth of Macleod and Rorion's paintings. Rorion's response to the show travels across the country, starting on June 5 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Que. "I think it will bring joy to people," he says, "and that they will go away feeling a great deal of satisfaction in the value of simple things." For Lewis, at least, neither the simple things of life was a source of both comfort and art. □

Folk art and plain folks

With a headline in his eye and words dripping off his tongue, 40-year-old Rorion recalls the day he became a folk artist. "I was out in my driveway then," says the 44-year-old, pointing past the window of his work shed, which sits near a side road in Lunenburg County about 130 km west of Halifax. "I was sitting forward and a piece dropped on the ground and I looked at it and it had a humped back and a flat head. I thought, 'You know, it looks exactly like a heaver.' So I had a pack and I sketched it for several days and I got a letter. Then my neighbor, Eddie Mandaggo, who does folk art, came by and said, 'You know, you got a personal folk art. You have to show it to someone.' So I showed it to this collector and he said, 'Yes, it's folk art.' After that, we'd got around and people started to come to see my work. It's been like that for going on seven years now."

About three months after Rorion's revelation, his younger brother, Leo, caught the bug. "It was Jan. 13, 1989, around 2:30 in the afternoon," recalls Leo, 40, whose work sheds about 100 m away from his brother's. "I got my father's scheme and thought I'd try it. I recognized out

a wooden goose, put it up and painted it. Then I painted a painting of the goose. 'It wasn't long before a third, Naugle, Bradford, joined the crew.' "I heard what my brothers were doing," says Bradford, 49, who lives about 10 km up the road, in Middlewood, N.S. "So I made an ox, some peacocks, a rooster, I mostly got into it for the kids."

Before they discovered folk art, the Naugles did odd jobs. Rorion was a fisherman and maintenance worker. Leo did auto-body repairs. Bradford painted houses. These days, their work is on display at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and in the hands of collectors as far afield as Alaska, Israel and Spain. And Leo's dozens of other untrained, self-taught and mostly rural artworks scattered throughout the province, they are able to make a modest living. In the case of Leo Naugle, only about \$10,000 a year, he says, producing whatever pieces—flying pigs, fish-like shapes and other creatures—that increasingly are being seen as serious works of art. "Major galleries across North America are actively collecting contemporary folk art without apology or condescension," says Gerard Werhan, director of the New England American Folk Art in New York City. "Folk art is finally being accepted for its own integrity, for its own sense."

Folk art knows no boundaries—it includes everything from the paintings of New England's Anna Mary Robertson Moses (better known as Grandma Moses) to Quebec sugar residents to the giant Ukrainian Easter egg on display near Varenville, Alta. But in Nova Scotia it has been given particular legitimacy through the efforts of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, which mounted its first major exhibition of folk art in 1976 and has since sponsored a number of one-person shows of some 400 pieces. Like most folk art, though, gallery director Rorion Rorion has a strong time defining the genre. It is, he says, art "outside the mainstream, that grows in self-expression, that is free from the trappings of high art." Is that definition like the Naugles, this question is academic. Asked if he's surprised by all the interest in his creations, Rorion smiles brightly. "Oh yeah, I can't believe it," he says. "I thought all I was making was lawn ornaments."

By E. in Lunenburg County

Rorion Naugle, a family puzzle



Death and the maiden

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

She did not know how to tell her parents. They had a vague idea of what the movie was about. They had even put money into it. But at all the moments backing *Kismet*—Vancouver director Lynne Stopkewich's starring feature debut—her parents were the only ones who had not seen the screen play. "I was terrified that they would break out over it," says Stopkewich, "that they'd think I'd finally lost it." In fact, it took the director 2 1/2 years before she could finally bring herself to tell them that the movie they had supported was a glowing portrait of a female necrophile.

Just before the first press screening of *Kismet* at last year's Toronto International Film Festival, the film maker called her parents' home in Montreal. Her mother picked up the phone. "I said, 'Mom, put Dad on the line,'" recalls Stopkewich. "Now's the time for me to tell you about the movie. . . . It's about this girl who gets a job in a funeral home and falls in love with some of the corpses. . . . and has sexual relations with them." The director laughs. "I'd never used the term 'sexual relations' before in my life. There was this big pause at the other end. Then, I jumped in and started listing all the government agencies supporting the project and saying it's based on a story by Barbara Gowdy, who's this really respected author. And my dad said, 'Don't worry. If you're proud of it, I'm sure we will be, too.'"

When Walter and Emily Stopkewich, who run a Montreal independent distribution center, finally saw their daughter's film, "my Mom came out of the theater with tears in her eyes," the director recalls. "She thought it was beautifully done. And my Dad was ecstatic."

Stopkewich's parents are not the only ones seduced by the unlikely charms of *Kismet*. Since its premiere last fall at the Toronto International Film Festival, the movie, being released in both Canada and the United States this month, has received rave reviews. Stopkewich, 33, has been deluged with scripts and offers from the major studios. *Kismet*'s first Toronto-based star, 24-year-old Milla Jovovich, is suddenly in hot demand. Personally, any actress who can create a tender, graceful and empathetic portrait of a woman who has sex with corpses is capable of just about anything Hollywood can throw at her.

Kismet is a blockbuster. But it is remarkable that a small Canadian film, with such a potentially off-putting subject, should be generating so much heat. Stopkewich based her script on the title story of Gowdy's 1992 collection *We So Beloved Love on Love*, which was inspired by the true tale of a young California woman caught in flagrant debauch with a fresh dead cadaver in the 1930s. "She had stolen the corpse and was caught lying in the coffin making love to the occupant," recalls the Toronto author. "She was very beautiful—it wasn't as if she couldn't get a date. She preferred dead men."



Pressing playing an embalmist who goes way beyond the call of duty

The tale of a necrophile is oddly uplifting

In creating her fictional necrophile, adds Gowdy, "I tried to get past my own repulsion and figure out why she'd do it. While it does repulse me, I don't find the behavior reprehensible. The men are dead, and there may be dead men who would welcome it. And she was not creepy. She wasn't cutting the bodies to pieces, she was worshipping them." But, describing her story as "a one-act play, a piece, an acute contemplation of what it means to love death and dead men," Gowdy says she was skeptical that it would work on film. "I didn't think it could be done, but Lynne pulled it off."

Stopkewich was working on another script when she first read Gowdy's story. "I couldn't get it out of my mind," she recalls. "It started to interfere with my writing process. I really liked the character's voice, and the fact that there's no judgment. That unsympathetic existence was really interesting to me."

Directing with exquisite precision, Stopkewich achieves a delicate reinvention of Gowdy's prose. Although her camera does not shy away from the story's macabre—the shows the necrophile dancing naked and straddling a corpse—nowhere does the dramatic tension ever topple into abuse or unintentional humor. Although *Kismet* may sound like another *Cash*, a Canadian movie delving sexual taboos, it is not terribly shocking or disturbing. In fact, it is eerily tasteful.

The slender narrative begins with scenes of the heroine as a child, a sweet young girl (Natasha Markov) who conducts fistfights in parks for small animals such as birds and chimpanzees. As a young adult, Sandra (Jovovich) is still enamored of death. So she becomes

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an aspiring exhibitor and lands a job at the local funeral parlor, where a ghastly encounter sends Walls (Jay Byars) going for decades less on continuing bodily fluids with a reward-for-death called sarcasm. Also under prep work one night, Sanders makes love to a corpse for the first time, and she embraces death with a poeticapture. "It was like diving into a lake—sudden cold and silence," she says. "My hands burned like I was touching dry ice, and all I could see was the light. I looked right into it."

Soon Sanders is stalking into the funeral home at night on a balcony, offering herself only to young, good-looking, dead white males. Meanwhile, in the outside world, she meets a love one, a lonely radical student named Matt (Peter Outerbridge) who becomes her first partner with a guide. Sanders confesses her secret to him early on, but instead of being repelled by it, he takes a voyeuristic interest. He wants details. He wants to take part. And that infuriates Sanders, whose obsession is not about kinky sex but spiritual transcendence, or what she calls "crossing over." Matt, however, is ready to love with her and is determined to cross over in his own fashion.

Outerbridge does a credible job of fleshing out a character who was just a shadowy presence in the original story. But the movie belongs to Parker, who delivers a truly mesmerizing performance. In many scenes she is acting alone, without dialogue, and the camera adores her. With a gritty focused complexion and wide eyes that register every flicker of thought, she has an unusual, facel beauty. The role is an extremely risky one, requiring her to be naked, emotionally and physically, in a few scenes for which there is no precedent.

"I knew that Lynne would find writing it a painful and respectful manner," Parker told Melina's in a recent interview. "That it was really the first love scene I'd ever done, and I had to play it alone. It's one thing to be with another actor where you can both be seduced or embarrassed together. But to do it alone feels masturbatory in a sense." They shot the scene on a small closed set with just five crew,

she recalls. "We had this squatty old doll following me around the gallery, with the camera guys pushing it and Lynne running behind them. All I could hear was the camera and these little phobias. I stopped and just burst into hysterics." Parker's solution was to get on some more, a Sarah McLachlan song, which "we played really loud over and over again for 10 hours while we shot the scene."

Stokewich says she, too, was anxious about shooting the sex. "It was very difficult when you know you're going to have full frontal nudity," she says. "And you're in a room where every camera scout of how women are represented in film." But the Montreal-born director, who has a master's degree in film from the University of British Columbia, found comfort in simple details, such as a shot of Parker's hand gripping the cold steel gallery. "I also tried to be emotional with the subject without turning her into an object," explains Stokewich. "She's crawling through the cinema, and at the height of her orgasm, she's looking right into the lens—into the audience. And I burn to white, so the theatre is filled with light, and you can look around and see how people are reacting."

Stokewich says she has never met a real acceptable film. "I tried to find things that were common to my experience—growing up in the suburbs, dealing with questions of sex and death, your first time, your first sexual experience," she adds, laughing. "I didn't want to be a modernist film; I wanted to be a mainstream film." The director did, however, visit a funeral home before the shoot. It was the first time she had seen a dead body. "I went into the prep room," she recalls, "and there was a guy laid out on a gurney, embalmed and wearing a suit. I was really startled because he was young, and I realized that even the kind of guy that I would be interested in, I could have reached out and touched him, but I didn't. It was like fiction and reality were crashing together. I had this overwhelming sense. I had to run out of the building to get some air."

The director attributes her reaction to "the realization of what I was exhibiting on and how public that would be—I certainly never imagined it would be this public. I thought the film was going to be private and self-contained in the way that it would be." "I found out under \$1 million to shoot," Stokewich says, her love-in companion, Vancouver filmmaker John Power, and Peter Sarsky spent two years editing it on old-fashioned equipment. And now, with his director discussing neurobiology on such outlets as CNN, the movie is scheduled to open in five U.S. cities.

As Stokewich wades through Hollywood scripts, there are plans for her to direct a feature based on Gowdy's latest novel, *Mr. Sandman*. Meanwhile, Gowdy himself is getting some buzz from the film. Her American publisher has printed a paperback of *Mr. Sandman Look on Love*, using a photograph from the movie on the cover. "It's a couple kissing," says Gowdy. "It's funny it's not unlike *The English Patient*, although in this case, the man has a little more pale."



Movie (left), Lynne Parker: Movies never happen into life



Movie (right), Peter Sarsky: Movies never happen into life

Allan Fotheringham



Lionizing athletes is a disservice to blacks

The patriotic American, who are great at celebrating, are celebrating the fact that 50 years ago this month Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn.

That's not correct, of course. Jackie broke the barrier a year earlier, in Montreal, when Brooklyn Dodgers owner Branch Rickey signed him to a pre-contract to play for the Royals of the International League. He wasn't the best player in the Negro Leagues, but he was what Rickey wanted: a solid ball player. Second World War exigencies, a potential All-American in football at UCLA and recently exposed.

Rickey wanted a calm and settled married man who could take the brutal taunts of "segregation boys" and "niggers" that greeted him from the Philadelphia Phillies' dugout that first day in Brooklyn. He flew out here in Montreal to test him, away from the racial divide in the United States, and Jackie did not disappoint. He led the International League with a .340 average, and with the Dodgers next year was rookie of the year.

Robinson is held up as a great exemplar for what are now called "African Americans." (The distorted semantics of American life have us from "colored folk" to "negro" to "black" and now to "African-American.")

Conspicuous, watching from after the widely publicized American turned over race, from Rodney King to O. J. Simpson to Bill Cosby, are always slightly startled when told that the black population of the United States is only 13 per cent. (Just as they are when they are told that the aboriginal population of Canada is less than three per cent.)

But Jackie remains the great hero of desegregation, leading sport to come today with another illustrious descendant Albert Belle and Dennis Rodman. This year, 80 per cent of the players in the NBA are black. In the NFL, 67 per cent of the players are black. In major-league baseball, black players make up 17 per cent of the roster and hit another 20 per cent.

Michael Jordan, the most famous athlete on earth, was paid a \$17.5-million salary last year and made another \$50 million in endorsement.

Every black youth on the playground in the ghetto dreams the dream of being the next Jordan.

U.S. News & World Report has an interesting twist on this. Blacks are the dominant presence in professional sports. But do blacks suffer as a result of this? It is an interesting concept.

The argument essentially is that because there is a small and elite class of black athletes in sports, every lower-class kid thinks that is the only way out of poverty. (The average net worth of a black household in the United States is still one-seventh that of whites.)

A Northwestern University study has found that 66 per cent of African-American boys between 12 and 16 believe they can make a living playing pro sports. That is more than double the percentage of white kids who believe the same.

But the added my high school athlete making it to the pros is 10,000 to 1. Only one of every 10,000 high schoolers makes it to the NBA. But there they are, it's straight down to the hardscrabble playground, shining brighter rather than shining about the school or next school. The despicable Rodman, who supposedly went to some college somewhere, was a junior at a Texas airport before he made it to the Chicago Bulls.

Harvard psychiatrist Alain Proulx said once, "There is an enormous gap between the black community and too many black students are putting all their eggs in one basket." The ridiculous money paid to the elite in sports creates these impossible dreams. The average salary in the NBA is now more than \$2.5 million. The most Robinson ever made was \$42,500—in 1966 U.S. dollars.

Jackie's triumph in obeying Rickey's instructions to ignore the taunts and beat them on the base paths paved the way for his rest. As a U.S. army lieutenant, he was court-martialed for refusing to sit in the "black" section of a back lot of military bus.

It was eight years after spending day when a little seamstress by the name of Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of a bus in Montemorey, Ala., and thus launched the whole civil rights movement that led to Bull Connor and police dogs and Martin Luther King. Jackie was there first.

In a new book, *Duran's Athlete*, a sports historian at the University of Texas-Austin, says John Hoberman, argues that the days when blacks had to channel their energies into the sports world "are long gone." He blames black athletes and the white corporate interests for keeping black athletes and ignoring other accomplishments. He says the many black middle class "are rendered invisible by the parade of black athletes and criminals on television."

Frank Thomas, the millionaire Chicago White Sox first baseman, was recently asked if he thought much about Jackie Robinson. "Not really," he replied. "I'm really more about the New Age."

Oh boy. How does he think he got there?



BY GARY KAPLAN

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